Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Daily Report
Supplement

Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
Majlis Sessions

FBIS-NES-94-028-S
Thursday
10 February 1994

Near East & South Asia
SUPPLEMENT
IRAN:
Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-94-028-S

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 2 Jan

94LA0062A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Masjed-e Soleyman, Nur, Nayriz and Mahshahr gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the details of the speeches and the proceedings.

Majles Highlights

Sohrabi, Deputy From Masjed-e Soleyman

Not that many suitable solutions are being applied to overcome current economic problems. It will not be long before we will have a situation in the nation resembling the current one in the municipality of Masjed-e Soleyman.

Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, Deputy From Nur

Next year our total oil revenues will absolutely and definitely be below $10 billion. Beginning now you must not take your eyes from the time day after tomorrow when we will have planning problems. Then after that, unfortunately in our country because of the abundance of freedom, anyone may come forward and raise an issue and question the entire government.

Dadvar, Deputy From Nayriz

The power to supervise government companies must be applied more than ever to stop extravagance, wasteful spending, dissipation, dinners, and more dinners and formalities. We must strengthen the foundations of construction, production, and development projects by eliminating these kinds of expenditures when writing the budget.

Daneshyar, Deputy From Mahshahr

At the appropriate time the respected Majles will certainly clarify the status of economic policies and the management of these two organizations (the Central Bank and the Plan and Budget Organization).

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the research and investigation report from the Post, Telegraph and Power Commission concerning the fire at the Shiraz telephone office. The text of the report was read.

Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours

The final item on the agenda was the urgent Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours. After study and consideration by the deputies, the motion's general form was approved. Consideration of its details was postponed to the next session.

Naser Sohrabi, Deputy From Masjed-e Soleyman

I expect the Majles to deal decisively with those unworthy officials who have been unable to develop themselves during the entire life of the revolution and who are caught up in ostentation.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Sohrabi, deputy from Masjed-e Soleyman. During his speech he discussed the study of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Bill and the Second Five-Year Plan in the Majles. He said: The imperialist nations believe that the economy is one of the main and crucial issues of life. For this purpose, in order to make their own economic situation prosperous, they impose a one-product economy on the Third World nations. They have planned in such a way that, as they themselves say, their industrial and agricultural products will meet the needs of the Third World nations and therefore there will be no need to produce these kinds of goods in the aforementioned nations.

He continued: In this regard I consider it necessary to discuss my own electoral district, meaning Masjed-e Soleyman. As you know, the first oil well was drilled in this municipality. It was a dark day for the noble people of this municipality when this black substance came to the surface. In the very first days the English companies sought to make their job easier by building the most modern hospital. It is said that the condemned Reza Shah hospitalized there for several days and they built several pools, clubs, movies, and homes.

The speaker also said: The implementation of policies like this by the English imperialists stopped the development of the region's other talents. On the one hand all the rural areas, villages, and agricultural lands were abandoned, and the people went to the cities. This continued as long as there was oil in Masjed-e Soleyman. After the oil ran out, there were undesirable results such as the evacuation of villages, the disappearance of traditional agriculture and animal husbandry and the movement of producers into a wage-earning system, which have brought nothing but poverty and indigence.

After the oil ran out, nothing was left of the modern hospitals but buildings. Today patients must be moved to the province centers for minor treatment. Even women about to give birth must travel about 130 km and this in itself causes the loss of hundreds of women and fetuses.

Continuing, the deputy from Masjed-e Soleyman emphasized: In view of this, if suitable solutions are not found for current economic problems, it will not be long before we will have a national situation that will resemble the current one in Masjed-e Soleyman.

Continuing his remarks, Sohrabi noted: In view of the special position of the Majles in the Constitution and its role in the nation's affairs, I expect my colleagues, while studying the Budget Bill and the Second Five-Year Plan, to deal decisively with those unworthy and inadequate officials who have been unable to develop themselves in this applied university during the entire glorious life of the splendid revolution and who are caught up in the habits of ostentation.

Likewise, we must question on an impersonal and impartial basis those officials who announced from this podium concerning the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Bill that we must stop living by the dollar to value the rial, which is our monetary unit. Yet unfortunately today, not only does the dollar have the first word in our economy, but with the implementation of improper policies in our economy the price of the dollar has increased from 70 rials[Rls] to Rls2,100. According to reports by the experts, large strides were taken in the First Five-Year Plan, but in the Second Five-Year Plan, because of the nation's limited foreign exchange, the first priority in solving the nation's acute problems and difficulties was to encourage producers to raise the level of production, to economize on consumption and to emphasize nonoil exports. In order to raise society's practical and scientific foundations and pay special attention to scientific, educational and university centers, it is necessary and most important of all to apply the exalted leader's economic policies to solve all of our economic problems.

In his report on the Five-Year Plan Law, the president of the republic said the deputies are exaggerating problems in order to get prerogatives. The speaker said in answer to this: In view of the fact that your excellency was once speaker of the Majles, you know well that taking prerogatives from executive officials is not one of the responsibilities of the deputies. You must be assured that if things are said from this podium, they are things that have been conveyed by the people to their deputies as society's acute problems. These things were mentioned in Majles speeches as a last resort after several letters were written and personal meetings were held with the relevant officials without an answer being given.

An example is the matter of gas delivery in this district. In view of the undesirable situation that has developed in this region due to the use of toxic gases and the gas delivery in the districts of Lali and Anbar in the municipality of Masjed-e Soleyman, which everyone considers to be gas mines, several letters were written and talks were held with the minister of petroleum, but there has as yet been no answer. For this reason, issues of this kind are discussed in the Majles. Since your excellency is known to all of us and since the problems of the deprived are your top priority in all the nation's plans, it is hoped that these kinds of measures will not cause you pain, and second that you will issue the order required to solve the problems of the people.

At the end of his speech he discussed his electoral district and issued memos to the officials in the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the supervisor of the Martyr Foundation and the minister of power.

Ahmad Natoq-Nuri, Deputy From Nur and Mahmudabad

The Pope's validation of the Gaza-Jericho treaty is recognizing Israel, despite all its crimes.

The next speaker was Ahmad Natoq-Nuri, deputy from Nur. In his speech he offered congratulations to all the world's Christians on the birth anniversary of His Holiness the Christ (peace be upon him). He said: It is most unfortunate that with the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him), the Vatican and the Pope gave a gift to human society. In the face of the trampling of the blood of thousands of thousands of combative Muslim and non-Muslim youth in Palestine, the Pope's gift was to validate the crimes of usurper Israel.

He added: The Pope's validation of the Gaza-Jericho treaty means recognizing Israel despite all its evil existence and its crimes. It is regrettable that today, instead of working to achieve the goals of that great prophet, who brought nothing to humanity except peace, tranquility and purity, the Christian clergy has become a tool of the world imperialists, who pull it in any direction they wish.

Continuing, he thanked the president of the republic and his entourage for traveling to the province of Mazandaran. He said: Concerning this capable president of the republic, who has a glorious record of struggle and who is past his youth, I must bear witness that, like a 25-year-old, he was full of effort and activity from early morning to the middle of the night, and for five days he tirelessly made the entire Province of Mazandaran joyous and happy with his presence.

He continued: Concerning those ministers who are working to create social justice and achieve economic independence, it is appropriate that we praise and thank all these dear ones, especially those ministers who accompanied the president of the republic on this trip.

He thanked and praised the minister of post, telegraph and telephone for assigning 60,000 telephones to the province of Mazandaran and the minister of heavy industries for creating a great industry in the municipality of Behshahr.

The deputy from Nur and Mahmudabad then thanked the people of the province of Mazandaran for their enthusiastic welcome to the president of the republic and his entourage. He discussed the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Bill and emphasized the exalted leader's comments on this matter. He said: Let us not do

anything so that we will again find ourselves at the beginning of the year asking why such a thing has happened here. First let us assess our revenues and then estimate expenses. Let us not derive revenues from expenses. Next year our total oil revenues will absolutely and definitely be below $10 billion. Do not make an assumption now that tomorrow we may have planning problems. Also, unfortunately in our country, because of the abundance of freedom, anyone may come forward and raise an issue and question the entire government. [as published]

As envisioned by some people, our economic problem is very difficult, but we are not now in a crisis. You are saying that the nation is under reconstruction. You have been implementing the plan for four years, and you are still crying that the situation is bad. Some have lost track of themselves. For example, in the face of an $8 billion debt, they open up all at once and say, oh no, we are in debt. We are in trouble and our hands are tied. What else is new? Why are you shouting?

America has a $3,000 billion debt and $512 billion of it is foreign debt. Saudi Arabia has $67 billion in debt. Turkey is more than $50 billion in debt, Pakistan is about $24 billion in debt and has $71 billion in long- and short-term debt.

Ahmad Nateq-Nuri noted: I think the best duty we can perform in writing the budget is to organize the Five-Year Plan in such a way that it will help the government.

Khalil Dadvar, Deputy From Nayriz

Our people expect social justice to be established in all spiritual and social areas.

The next speaker was Dadvar, deputy from Nayriz. During his speech he said: Today when the Islamic revolution is firm and strong, we must maintain our powerful presence in all international affairs and turn the enemy's hope into despair. What our people and all the world's oppressed masses expect more than anything else is the establishment and expansion as much as possible of social justice in all material and spiritual areas, and that is one of the prominent characteristics of this revolution. The deprived and oppressed are watching the spiritual and material changes in this center of the Muslim world in order to find their way to joy and pride by following it in a world filled with cruelty, where those who rule it are playing shamelessly with every sacred human value.

He added: The American designers of the new world order and their Western supporters, with all their various agents including people with influence, opportunists, the blind and gullible and those living in painless welfare, are seeking through military means and cultural and economic invasion to achieve their filthy goal of turning the sacrificing and loyal people away from the values of the revolution, but they have only made them more determined. Despite the eight years of sacred defense by our people against the enemy military invasion and their 15 years of solidarity and steadfastness against all the evil tricks of the rulers of oppression, the love and unshakable faith the companions of the revolution have in the Koran, our people and the leadership are the most evocative evidence of this nation's invincibility in the history of the nations of the world.

He added: The alertness that the government leaders and the officials who bear the burden of executive responsibility have in providing as much service as possible to the public is the secret of the continuation and perpetuation of all these successes. Today, while society's vulnerable classes are under the backbreaking pressure of high prices and material discrimination, a small group of people alienated from Islam and the revolution is abusing the opportunities that exist through the ceaseless involvement of concerned officials with problems and enemy plots, and is plundering and accumulating limitless wealth.

It would be appropriate to create organizations that supervise and precisely monitor the incomes of those godless people who amass wealth and who recognize no limits or boundaries for their religiously unlawful incomes, in order perhaps to be able to anchor these astronomical and backbreaking costs, especially since high prices are not the main problem in our economy. The real problem is that of selling at high prices and the greed of those who will go to their graves with a worldly view of life.

Social justice arising from the constructive teachings of Islam requires that we lift the burden of all direct and indirect taxes from the backs of the deprived and the oppressed. We must not permit opportunists to price goods according to their whim in a chaotic market. If we do they will add several times the amount of any taxes collected to the prices. Ultimately the consumer, who is powerless everywhere, pays the price.

The deputy from Nayriz explained: We deputies of the people, who are sworn to represent the people, have taken on the responsibility of supervising enacted laws. The power to supervise government companies must be applied more than ever to stop extravagance, wasteful spending, dissipation, dinners and more dinners and formalities. We must strengthen the foundations of construction and production and development projects by eliminating these kinds of expenditures when writing the budget.

He discussed the low status of laborers, teachers, and retirees in society. He said: It is a source of pride for our government that its officials remain in close contact with the masses by following the leader's commendable methods and by acting in the shadow of guidance from clerical leaders. Its ministers and managers must adopt a procedure like the one our responsible and sympathetic brother, Mr. Basharati, minister of the interior, has adopted. Even if only once a week, he descends from the upper levels of that tall ministry building and acquaints himself with the concerns of the people, and in making

their work easier, he brings smiles of satisfaction and encouragement to their lips.

In conclusion, the deputy from Nayriz asked the minister of culture and higher education to take steps to establish the teacher college in the municipality of Estehban, which the people in that city have wanted for years.

He also said: While I thank the respected official of the deprived regions office, I ask the president of the republic to take steps to procure electricity and build roads in the deprived villages of the Nayriz central district.

Kemal Daneshyar, Deputy From Mahshahr

In the management of the Central Bank and the Plan and Budget Organization, there are still signs of nontheological and non-Islamic thinking, which is separated from the people.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Daneshyar, the deputy from Mahshahr.

During his speech he said: The divine government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the center of hope for the deprived and oppressed people of the world, is powerfully and capably passing through the difficult phases of its cultural and economic prosperity.

It is Islam that will destroy the oppressors with triumphant and authoritative pride and honor, and will raise the banner of Islam over the high summit of humanity's joy.

He then sincerely thanked the speaker of the Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and his entourage for their sincere visit with the martyr-nurturing people of the province of Khuzestan, especially the municipality of Mahshahr. He expressed the hope that this visit will be a turning point for the development of the province of Khuzestan, and that valuable steps will be taken in the Second Five-Year Plan to alleviate deprivation in the regions of Khuzestan. He also called upon the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the wait for a personal visit by him to the heroic people of Khuzestan so they will see him in person this year.

Continuing, the speaker said: I direct the attention of the minister of culture and higher education to the situation in the universities. In view of the recent guidance from the exalted leader about removing elements from the university who have lost their identities and are enamored of the West, practical and effective steps must be taken. We must make joyous the soul of the departed Imam, the heart of the present Imam and the families of martyrs by taking a decisive approach and removing from the university elements enamored of the West with no identity who are trying through the propagation of anti-Islamic ideas to destroy the Islamic and political ability of students to perceive, think and analyze. It is especially important to purge elements without identity from the Tehran Teacher College.

The deputy from Mahshahr then said: In the management of the Central Bank and the Plan and Budget Organization, there are still signs of nontheological and non-Islamic thinking which is separated from the people. It appears that they have set a separate course for themselves, one that is not that of the Islam of Mohammad and Islamic justice. At the appropriate time the respected Majles will certainly clarify the status of economic policies and the management of the two aforementioned organizations.

It is not clear why live sheep are being exported and mutton is being imported simultaneously at the ports and border customs offices, and it is not clear how this benefits the country at this time.

In conclusion, he discussed the shortages in his electoral district and issued memos to officials.

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the research and investigation report from the Post, Telegraph and Power Commission concerning the fire at the Shiraz telephone office. The text of the report is as follows:

In implementing Article 76 of the Constitution and based on Article 149 of Majles Internal Guidelines, the request for research and investigation concerning the fire at the warehouses of the Shiraz telephone office was sent via the speaker of the Majles to this commission by several of the respected Majles deputies. The report is presented below. In the commission's various meetings, attended by several of the respected deputies requesting the research and investigation, research and investigation delegations were formed to be sent to the site of the incident.

The first delegation, consisting of four members of the Power Commission, was sent to Shiraz to inspect the site. It obtained information from various sources, which it presented to the commission. After study and discussion in the commission concerning the delegation's report, a second research and investigation delegation was formed and sent again to the site of the incident, accompanied by one of the respected deputies requesting the research and investigation. After a careful inspection of the site and discussions with province officials, because several ambiguities were encountered a request was made to the respected Majles Speaker's Council to extend the study time, which was agreed to. In continuing the study with information obtained from intelligence organizations and province officials, the report from the research and investigation delegation was read and studied in the commission, and the result was approved by a majority vote.

Part 1 of the Report

A. Situation in the Warehouses and Their Contents

According to statements made by the communications factories, in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] after the signing of the contract to transfer digital switch technology with the German Seimens and SEL companies and the allocation of 50 percent of the company's space to the aforementioned projects, a factory was provided for maintaining its old systems, especially the relevant materials and parts to be used for the next five years' production.

A shortage of space was encountered. In this regard, on 1/11/1369 [31 March 1990] the factory rented a small Soleh warehouse with an area of 8,000 square meters from the Bahman Fars Company. At the time the contract was signed the factory also placed on its agenda the construction of a central Soleh company warehouse on a 25-hectare site known as Phase II, with an area of 12,000 square meters. On 4/13/1371 [4 July 1992] the warehouse was temporarily delivered at a total cost of Rls694,722,852 by Mr. Bakhtiar and the National Soleh Company.

In the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] the Bahman Fars Company and the office of the governor-general of Shiraz repeatedly asked the factory to evacuate the warehouse because of the need for the space required to store the wheat produced in the province. On 5/1/1371 [23 July 1992] the telephone company was obliged to remove its materials and parts to the aforementioned half-completed warehouse despite the fact that the central warehouse was not ready. This transfer took a month and a half (Enclosure 1 pertains to this). [sentence as published]. The Phase II warehouse is located at Kilometer 1 near Martyr Dastgheyb International Airport Road at Shiraz.

List of Materials and Parts Destroyed in Phase II Warehouse Fire

According to Enclosure 2 the totals are as follows:

1. Price of goods and materials purchased domestically: Rls2,023,085,381
2. Price of goods and materials purchased abroad: Rls1,931,911,461

On row 2 each mark is calculated at Rls361. If converted to the daily floating rate of about Rls1,000 per mark, the figure on row 2 will change to Rls5,351,555,294. Consequently the total cost of all materials will be Rls7,384,640,675. According to documents submitted by the telephone company in enclosure 3 and 4, of all the above parts and materials Rls455,984,831 have been certainly recovered and Rls577,823,341 will be possibly recovered, and a total of Rls1,033,808,174 will be recovered. Therefore the total losses in materials and parts is Rls6,350,832,803 and for the price of the building Rls694,722,851 was paid in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] to the National Soleh Company and Mr. Bakhtiar. According to the sources presented by the telephone company, the total losses at the free foreign exchange rate are estimated at Rls7,045,555,355.

It is necessary to mention that unofficial sources have estimated that the losses are up to ten times the above figure, but they did not submit any evidence of their claims to this commission.

B. Description of the Incident

Based on the investigation of the fire, at 0800 7/22/1371 [14 October 1992] a fire started next to flammable materials in a corner adjoining the rooms built in the 12,000-square-meter warehouse. The presence of the flammable materials caused the fire to spread in such a way that foreclosed the possibility of conventional help. The rumor of the presence of cyanide gas at the site and the creation of fear among individuals particularly slowed the reaction to the fire.

Part 2 of the Report

Measures Taken To Put Out the Fire

The spreading fire was sighted and reported at 0830 by one of the carpentry factory supervisors. Because the warehouse fire-fighting official reacted with the only fire-fighting vehicle inside the warehouse with great effort, because the warehouse entry doors were not standard and because parts, materials and other things were piled up, the spraying of the 4,000 liters of water in the fire-fighting machine had no effect putting out the fire and it became bigger. Because of the intense fire and smoke, the lack of clothing and masks engineered for fire-fighting and the breakdown of the vehicle because the gearbox gears did not engage, the fire-fighting effort stopped. Later the vehicle was removed from the site of the fire by destroying a wall with a loader and with the help of Shiraz fire-fighting officials and volunteer organizations requested by the Phase II fire-fighting official.

It is to be noted that under the previous management the Fire-fighting and Security Organization was dissolved [as published] and this unit was placed under the supervision of the police official who did not have any of the necessary specialist training, while in accordance with technical principles the fire-fighting and security unit should be under the direct supervision of management.

After the police official was informed of the warehouse fire, at about 0945 he went to the Phase II warehouse with two fire-fighting people and only a police Land Rover.

The fire was finally put out with the help of the respected province officials, including the respected Friday imam, the respected governor-general of Fars, the commander of the regional police force and the fire-fighting units of the urban, government, and military organizations, which gradually went into operation, with general and comprehensive assistance. The presence of the above officials, especially the respected Friday imam and the

respected governor-general, was especially helpful in bolstering the morale of individuals, which was greatly weakened by the rumor of the presence of cyanide gas.

It is necessary to mention that the first three to five minutes is the so-called golden time to put out the fire. Positive steps were not taken because of the failure to use fire extinguishing resources and equipment and because it was said that the capsules needed, which consist of a water and carbon dioxide system with a special powder, had burned. Although the walls of the Soleh warehouse were destroyed, due to the presence of slow- and fast-burning materials in the chemical and nonchemical warehouses, hidden fires were seen at the sites for up to four days afterwards.

Part 3 of the Report

The summary of the conclusion of the report from the Post, Telegraph and Power Commission on the Shiraz Telephone Company Fire is as follows:

1. The main reason for the fire was the lack of caution, especially workers cooking by building an oven next to flammable materials, which is where the fire started. (It is necessary to mention that about a week before this incident there was also a small fire at the warehouse caused by welding, which was extinguished.)
2. The failure of warehouse officials present at their workplace.
3. The dissolution and change to nonscientific and nontechnical management of the fire-fighting organization.
4. The change of factory management.
5. The failure to observe the principles and technical conditions of assets at the warehouse.
6. Not being equipped with special fire-fighting equipment such as equipment to water in pipes, capsules, foam and alarm equipment.
7. The lack of familiarity of fire-fighting and warehouse personnel with their work.
8. The lack of precautions and indifference on the part of officials towards the problems existing prior to the fire.

It is necessary to mention that after some statements were made that the fire was set deliberately, the commission sought an opinion from the Ministry of Intelligence. They said: Evidence has not yet been obtained that the fire was set deliberately. However, there are problems concerning the keeping of the warehouse and nonstandard storage of materials. In general, what is clear is that the main problems were lack of precautions in warehouse management, especially the problem of workers cooking, the procedures for storing materials and parts and the lack of preparedness to put out the fire. Unfortunately, these things are not observed in many of the nation's other warehouses, and serious attention must be given to this in order to preserve the nation's public assets. Steps taken in this regard will be more general if motions and bills are submitted that guarantee executive authority.

Price Increases for Some Goods

The bill authorizing the collection of some indirect taxes on some goods and services will be on this week's Majles agenda.

Under this bill the government will collect a tax of Rls20 on each liter of imported beverage (beer, various types of cola and carbonated beverages, fruit juice and the like);Rls10 on each imported cigarette; Rls5 on each domestic filter cigarette; and Rls2.5 on unfiltered domestic cigarettes. Likewise, the government will collect a tax of Rls100,000 for assigning numbers to vehicles, which come into the country temporarily; Rls300 for each ton of cement produced by domestic factories; Rls3,000 for issuing an international driver's license; and Rls50,000 for a transit plate.

It is worth mentioning that the general form of this bill was approved in the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission and the deputies will have the right to make or change the final decision.

Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours

The final item on the agenda was the Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours. After study and discussion by the deputies the general form of the bill was approved. Consideration of its details was postponed to the next session.

This motion provides that permanent official employees and similar employees who are employed in management and supervisory positions may engage in continued study in foreign and domestic universities and institutions of higher learning only after approval from the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization, and only outside office hours and on days off.

The deputies who spoke in favor of this motion during today's Majles proceedings mostly emphasized the point that studying by office managers leaves clients with no place to go and wastes government assets and resources.

Some deputies also opposed this motion, citing the necessity to study and learn about Islam.

This group of deputies also argued that some managers do other things during office hours such as commercial activities and teaching, and this motion does not make the provisions needed for these cases.

Agenda for weekly commission meetings:

Education and Training Commission:
Study of the Bill To Form Education and Training Councils in the Nation's Provinces and Regions (returned from the respected Guardian Council)

Health and Welfare Commission:
Study of the question from a number of deputies to the minister of health care, treatment and medical education concerning the reduction of the medical student admission capacity.

This week the other commissions are studying the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Bill and the recommendations received.

Majles Notes

Guidelines Memo From the Deputy From Rasht Concerning the Minister of the Interior's Answer to His Question

Elias Hazrati, deputy from Rasht, citing Article 77 from the Majles Internal Guidelines, once again requested an answer from the minister of the interior concerning the verse he read with regard to his question.

He said: Last week on Tuesday when Mr. Rowhani was chairman, I issued a memo. We have all sworn to act within the guidelines, especially the respected Speaker's Council and the respected Majles management. At the beginning of our term as deputies we swore to be loyal both to the internal guidelines and the Constitution. When a deputy asks a question and the relevant minister answers, this is not an answer to one deputy but an answer to the entire Majles. It is different from following up on a letter from a constituent. Therefore, articles 77 and 147 clearly state that if the minister does not come forward in a timely manner the speaker of the Majles will issue a memo.

In his answer the minister of the interior used verses pertaining to infidels and hypocrites and easily walked over decency and the law. When someone says I have not come here to satisfy anyone, this is really an insult to the Majles, and it is the duty of the Majles management to defend the sacred space of the Majles. The verse that he (the minister of the interior) read was no mistake. It really bespeaks a kind of viewpoint and that is that whoever is with me has the right to speak and breathe. This viewpoint says that whoever is with me is a Muslim and whoever is not with me has no right to engage in political activity or ask questions.

The distinction of the Fourth Majles is that it has exercises stronger supervision. The problem is making a statement that if someone other than us asks a question, we will deal with him. This is the very reason for the political stagnation in our universities. When the minister of the interior comes out and says I will not authorize demonstrations, what are the results?

Then Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: In any case you have the right to cite Article 77 and then to say that you have been implicitly or explicitly insulted, citing this article. Then, if the speaker of the Majles determines that this was an insult, he will give you time to speak at that session or the next one.

Then Mr. Hazrati said: My criticism is really of Mr. Rowhani, who was speaker at that time. The issue here is time for me to say that at that very moment you did not issue a memo, and this is not acceptable. This is clear and Article 77 has made it clear.

Explanation and Correction

Legislative Division: In the speech by Mr. Karim, deputy from Shushtar, printed in the newspaper on 9/29/72 [20 December 1993], due to technical problems the words "leprous" and "toman" were mistakenly printed as "precinct-like" and "one toman", which are hereby corrected.

* 4 Jan

94LA0063A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Jan 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Abadan, Tehran and Ahvaz gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda and the question from the deputy from Langrud to the minister of agriculture and his answer were presented.

We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Majles Highlights

Speeches

In his pre-agenda speech, Engineer Yahyavi, deputy from Tehran, rejected relations with America. He then discussed the Iranian islands Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa. Elsewhere in his talks, with reference to the commands from the exalted leader, he said social justice should be considered in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget and in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Mr. Musavi, deputy from Ahvaz, considered supervision in the country weak, and said that violators are not being dealt with seriously.

Mr. Musavi, deputy from Abadan, said that unemployment is the source of every kind of corruption and he criticized the employment policy for war refugees.

Question

Mr. Siqali, deputy from Langrud, discussed his question to the minister of agriculture concerning the collection of one-half percent from tea growers, and the fact that this violates regulations. In answer, the minister of agriculture said: This was done by the Northern Union of Tea Growers and not by the Ministry of Agriculture. On the one hand, we have fired the executive director of agriculture for the province of Gilan. Continuing, he said: The amount being discussed is ready to give to the tea growers.

The answer from the minister of agriculture to the deputy from Langrud was deemed unsatisfactory and the matter was sent to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission for further action.

Legislation

The details of the Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours were approved by the Majles. According to Article 1, employment and continued study by managers employed in the three powers of government and the revolutionary organizations is prohibited both inside and outside the country, and violators will be suspended for up to three years.

The general form of the Bill To Collect Some Government Revenues and Expenditures in Specified Cases was approved by the Majles, and with the completion of a five-year experimental period, it was made permanent.

Mr. 'Abbasi, speaking in opposition to this bill, said that it will cause a 24-percent increase in the costs of service goods.

Mr. Akrami, speaking in support of this bill, said that it will bring self-sufficiency for all service-providing organizations.

Seyyed Yunes Musavi, Deputy From Abadan

Unemployment Is a Factor That Influences Every Kind of Corruption

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Yunis Musavi, deputy from Abadan. During his speech he said: The war-stricken cities in Khuzestan such as Abadan and Khorramshahr suffered the greatest damage during the sacred defense. Despite the respected government's continuous effort and attention, the reconstruction of these cities is not yet complete. Most important of all are infrastructure matters such as water, electricity, sewage, health care and treatment facilities and educational facilities, which are really the basic installations in the lives of human beings, and these remain unresolved.

Continuing, he said: I also ask that in enacting the Second Five-Year Plan attention be given to the rows that pertain to the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas so that, God willing, these tormented refugees will be completely returned to their homes and cities and resume normal life. The prosperity of these border cities has important and positive effects, and these good and sacrificing people will at least provide security for the nation's southern borders.

The speaker then made the following comments concerning his electoral district: Before the imposed war started, 48 percent of the people in the municipal precinct owned land and property, 40 percent were renters, and 12 percent had free housing. Thus almost half the people in the urban precinct needed housing before the war. Now, in view of the population growth, the respected president of the republic and his special representative and the respected minister of housing and urban development are expected to give attention to the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas.

He continued: One of the very important incentives for returned refugees to remain in the city and create security for the people is employment. Unemployment is a factor that influences every kind of corruption and other social problems.

Continuing, he discussed the water and sewage situation in Abadan. He said: I ask the minister of the interior and the chief of the National Registry Organization to extend as long as possible the legal grace period in Articles 148 and 147 of the Document Registration Law for the war-stricken areas of Abadan and Khorramshahr, which are in special circumstances.

Continuing his speech, the deputy from Abadan then discussed the problems with fish and fisheries in this region. He asked that river fishermen be authorized to employ rural people.

Continuing, Mr. Musavi described the policy of employing refugees as being weak, and added: In some companies, the nonspecialist workers are not the local people.

He added: Unfortunately the dear rural people of Abadan and Ervandkenar have no occupations other than fishing and agriculture. So far, due to the lack of financial ability and insufficient government aid to revive their fisheries and cultivated lands, they have been unable to have desirable agriculture that could be used to provide a livelihood. I ask the officials in charge to review the ceiling on the payment of nonrepayable reparations and banking facilities. Continuing, the speaker asked the respected president of the republic to send a delegation to study the ports of Abadan and Ervandkenar and to select a free-trade zone.

In conclusion he asked that attention be given to education and healthy recreation and sports. Elsewhere in his talk he asked customs to expedite the release of goods.

Mohsen Yahyavi, Deputy From Tehran

Let us diligently avoid removing government price supports and reducing subsidies on basic goods.

The next speaker was Yahyavi, from the Tehran electoral district. During his speech he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of His Holiness the Christ (peace be upon him). He harshly condemned the Vatican's establishment of relations with the Zionist occupation regime. He said: These days, in some circles and in most of the newspapers one encounters statements by one of the deputies on the necessity of negotiating with America to solve problems. Listeners and readers are hearing and reading that this is the wish of the Majles or a group of its deputies.

I hereby declare that all the deputies who consider themselves followers of the Imam's line have constantly ringing in their ears the words "negotiating with America is like a wolf negotiating with a sheep," and we will never agree to such negotiations. We will solve all problems with God's help and reliance on the people, even if over the long term, and we will never back away from obedience to the exalted leader of the revolution, this standard-bearer of noncompromise with criminals, especially America.

He continued: I believe that people like this did not even understand His Holiness the Imam's (peace be upon him) remark about drinking poison. They thought this poison was the poison of regret, unaware that this was a deadly poison for someone who considered himself in the right, who considered what he had done to be right and who considered it right to continue doing it until the final result was achieved, but who was forced to change his position and endure oppression from some people to preserve higher interests.

Continuing, Yahyavi noted: Among the other instances, which have moved the hearts of the world's free people and especially our revolutionary Islamic nation are the ignorant and shortsighted statements made in the declaration of the end of the so-called Gulf Cooperation Council concerning the three Iranian islands. Don't they know that by making those statements they have become playthings in the hands of the enemies of Islam, who are trying to plant the seeds of hypocrisy and enmity among the Muslims of the region and make the region perpetually insecure, in order to apply their imperialist policies in this sensitive and strategic region?

I am warning the rulers of the Persian Gulf not to play with fire and to learn from the imposed war. They must realize that the lions are awake in the forests of Iran. They will not give up one inch of their soil. With God's help they will cut off any hand that reaches for their soil, and in so doing they will not shrink from martyrdom, imprisonment or hardship.

Continuing his remarks, the deputy from Abadan discussed the study of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Bill and the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: To observe social justice, among other things His Excellency (Ayatollah Khamene'i) ordered the best division of public resources, that attention and more help be given to the deprived and rural areas in various areas, and that the social security system be expanded and improved.

Carrying out these orders requires the deputies to put aside all their preoccupations with districts, electoral precincts, provinces and regions in studying the budget. While reflecting the needs of their electoral precincts, let us see the ultimate meeting of those needs in the framework of general and revolutionary interests, which will ultimately bring the greatest benefit to all. Let us estimate resources realistically rather than determining them in accordance with previously determined expenses, because if we do that we will see similar or greater and more difficult consequences than the ones produced by the unrealistic view that was taken in the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget.

In view of the general situation in society, which has made it necessary for the exalted leader to order the expansion of the social security system, at a time when this expansion has been deferred to the future because of the lack of resources, let us diligently avoid removing government price supports and reducing subsidies on basic goods, even though the primary beneficiaries of these subsidies are the comfortable classes and they benefit from it in most cases 20 to 30 times more than the vulnerable classes, although the funds obtained are sometimes spent on development in the country.

The deputy from Tehran then noted: In Note 23 we have an increase in oil by—products, and the funds obtained must be given to the National Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals Company to develop its work. We believe that it is necessary to develop the gas network in the cities, but not at the cost of bringing the nation's vulnerable class to its knees.

Of the approximately 30,000 service lines, which have been given to customers in East Azerbaijan, more than two-thirds have not been used because the people in the area do not have the financial resources to pay for the plumbing inside their homes. Now we are going to spend this money on the gas delivery network at the price of making oil by-products costly, which has a direct effect on price increases for other goods.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Deputy From Ahvaz

Supervision in the country is quite weak and violations are not being seriously dealt with.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Musavi, deputy from Ahvaz. During his speech he said: Everyone agrees that the Muslim people of Iran are a people who analyze political issues well. They are completely familiar with the goals of the enemies of Islam, who always try to bring into question the sincere services of the government in order to propagate a spirit of despair and hopelessness and to say that Islam is incapable of managing society. We therefore see that the people are quite hopeful about the consequences and the future of the path they have adopted.

Continuing, the speaker said: The people are aware of the work that has been done under the First Five-Year Plan. They consider the existing peace and stability in the country to be due to the government's proper and correct policy. It is for this reason that they are ever-present on the scene. They have repeatedly splendidly welcomed the nation's leaders and always thanked and praised the government's services.

However, all these things do not mean that there is no criticism of the government and that the government was able to meet all the goals in the First Five-Year Plan.

The people criticize to make the government aware of existing weaknesses. It is the government's duty to pay attention to what the people say and to take measures in response. An example of the rightful criticisms of the people is that supervision in the country is quite weak and violators are not being dealt with seriously.

Unfortunately the judiciary has become subject to minor and daily complaints from the people, and it does not deal much with basic and general matters that may not have a specific plaintiff. The existing extravagance in the government companies and in some ministries are not worthy of our Islamic government. Unfortunately there is no small amount of trips abroad and personal and private use of government resources.

Continuing, the deputy from Ahvaz added: An official who violates the law is dismissed in one province and appointed in another. It is with a view to these things that the people criticize. They want reform in the administrative and judicial systems. They want to destroy the spirit of working too little, indifference, shuffling paper, and bribery. They want violators to be dealt with seriously, and they do not want it said that dealing with some people will weaken the government. Let us give executive guarantees to the National Investigative Organization, and purge it of blind subservience. Let us make full use of the reports and activities of the nameless soldiers of the Imam of the Age. If we can do this, then we will have a reason for this heavy burden the people are bearing. Why must we always propose or choose the easy path, which results in pressure on the people?

The deputy from Ahvaz continued: We are on the eve of our study and approval of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget and the Second Five-Year Plan. Khuzestan, one of Iran's golden provinces, has been behind the other provinces for 12 years because of the war.

How will the government and the Majlis close this gap? The reconstruction budget is being spent only in the cities of Abarkan, Khorramshahr, and Dasht-e Azadegan, and it does not even meet the needs of those cities, not to mention the other cities in the province of Khuzestan. What is to be done with Ahvaz, where all of its resources such as hospitals, roads, airports and other things were in the service of the war? Respected deputies, the people of Khuzestan have paid their debt to Islam and the revolution. You, who are deputies of that nation, must also pay your debt to those dear people.

Legislation

Deputy From Langrud's Question to the Minister of Agriculture

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majlis session was the question from Parviz Sigali, deputy from Langrud, to the minister of agriculture.

Parviz Sigali discussed his question to Dr. Kalantari concerning restoration of the rights of tea growers. He said: I have concluded that if the minister of agriculture will return the half-percent that was collected from tea growers by the National Tea Organization, I will withdraw my question, but so far Dr. Kalantari has not done this.

He added: With which legal and religious criteria does the nonrepayment of the half-percent of the price of green tea leaves to the region's tea growers conform? Why doesn't Dr. Kalantari return the half-percent of the profits of tea growers, which he collected from them on a compulsory basis for a year and a half? The growers of green tea leaves deliver their tea to the tea organization at fixed prices and they get their money every 15 days from that organization.

Continuing, he said: In 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] they prepared minutes and said that in addition to the reports that the tea growers make for the development of the tea-growing regions, one-half percent will be collected from the tea growers and spent on essential tasks. The minutes state that this amount was to be deposited in an account to be specified later.

The tea growers did not know who would be getting this money, and they therefore opposed this matter. This led to them raising this issue with province of Gilan deputies in a petition and asking for the return of the money. At this point Dr. Angji wrote a letter to the tea organization and he canceled [it with regard to] the guidelines that this organization wrote.

The deputy from Langrud continued: We have been seeking to have these collected funds returned to the tea growers, and so far this has not been done.

Minister of Agriculture's Answer

Then Dr. Kalantari, minister of agriculture, said in a speech: In the month of Khordad 1370 [22 May-21 June 1991], the Northern Tea Growers Union, a nongovernment organization, decided to collect one-half percent of the price of green tea leaves to be used for the region's charity and infrastructure affairs, to be spent by local organizations, Friday imams, and others. This was the decision of the Northern Tea Growers' Union, not the Ministry of Agriculture. At that time as was customary, the Northern Tea Growers' office, which generally cooperates with agricultural organizations, undertook in cooperation with the Northern Tea Growers' Union to collect this one-half percent. One-half percent of the tea harvest of Khordad 1370 was 60 million rials[Rls]. Rls34 million of this was taken out by the union directly from the funds of growers and the other 26 million was deducted by the Northern Tea Growers' office from the price of green tea leaf producers and kept elsewhere.

He also said: About 10 days after this was done the Third Majlis deputies informed the chief of the tea office that they were doing this and a number of farmers were unhappy. They were right because we cannot take money from farmers by force. At that time the order was given to stop taking this money from the farmers, and that if

the farmers wanted to help directly they could do so through their own unions and the government should not interfere in this matter. Solely because of this cooperation, the general manager at the time of the Northern Tea Growers' office was fired and this money was kept in an account. At the same time we were wondering what to do with this money. One way was to pay the money back to the farmers. There was no complaint from the farmers asking us to give this money back to them. Even to this day, there has not been one request by the farmers themselves.

Continuing his talk, Dr. Kalantari said: As far as we have been able to determine, of the 12,000 farmers we have not encountered one asking for his money. This money exists and the tea organization has been ordered to speak with all these farmers at the end of its fiscal year, which is in about 10 or 12 days, and to give the money back to those who want it, and the funds belonging to those who do not wish to get this money themselves should be deposited in the union's account to be used for charity.

Deputy From Langrud's Further Remarks

Parviz Siqali discussed his question again. He said: In the minutes you ordered the Northern Tea Growers' office to deduct one-half percent of the price of the tea growers' green tea leaves from their accounts and to deposit it in another account that would be announced later. That is, the hands of the tea organization and the Ministry of Agriculture are directly visible in connection with the collection of the one-half percent.

You must accept your own guidelines, signed by your own general manager. You cannot cancel your own guidelines. Throughout these years the tea growers were unable to collect 100 tomans from the people, until the assault by your guidelines. We calculated that during last year the estimated total was 40 million tomans. Why should the tea growers pay 40 million tomans to the gentlemen in a year to spend on various things? When you issued the order, the infamous guidelines were voided. It appears that the doctor is not informed. When this became law the tea growers opposed it and got into a clash at the factories. In the first half of the month of Khordad [22 May-6 June] you confiscated the checks to the tea growers and did not allow them to be paid to the tea growers. This very thing caused you to get into a severe clash at the tea factories. Protests from the tea growers caused the deputies to write that letter to you. The doctor says there were no protests. Is it possible that they did not give you those petitions, or did you forget? Which tea grower is satisfied that you took one-half percent of his money by force and then did not give it to him?

He then said: My question is, why have invisible hands appeared taking countless amounts of money from the tea growers?

Minister of Agriculture's New Answer

Then Dr. Kalantari gave a new answer to this question. He said: We have no disagreement. We say that the tea organization should not have collected the money and should not collect it. Fortunately, both of the great men who were previously in charge of it are in the Majles (Dr. Angji and Mr. Saber Hamishegi) Both gave orders telling the organization it does not have the right to take any money. They took money in one instance and then the general manager was fired. The money that Mr. Siqali mentioned was not that amount. However, it is 3,556,127 tomans. As for the fact that they are saying the union did not collect any money, the union itself took 490,000 tomans. The amount that was collected is in the account. As for the fact that they said the tea growers protested and wrote a petition, Mr. Abbasi, we have not seen a single one of them. The petition signed by the deputies of the tea growers from Lahijan, Fumanat, Rasht, Langrud, Tonokabon, and Ramsar said that they did not want the money, and told us to give the money to the respected Friday imam of Lahijan to be used in any way he determines.

We still did not consider this adequate and we said that each and every tea grower had to sign it saying that he wanted or did not want the money given to the Friday imam of Lahijan.

Mr. Siqali says we are taking money illegally. First of all, I myself confirm that these guidelines were written in violation of the law. In a letter dated 7/2/1372 [24 September 1993] Mr. Siqali himself said to your general manager Mr. Taha'i: "Respectfully, based on the measure adopted by the tea factory owners in Gilan with regard to the half-percent of the revenues derived from drying, pay the money to advance the work of the revolutionary guard mobilization in the municipality of Langrud."

You tell me, where is the legal basis for doing this? When you say that tomorrow the deputy from Lahijan will protest, you who do not wish to violate the law, why are you making that request? The minister of agriculture then said: We ordered them to give the money back. I think that in principle we should have no difficulty. There was a lack of caution once by our general manager, and then we fired him.

The answer from the minister of agriculture to the deputy from Langrud was deemed unsatisfactory and the matter was sent to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission for further action.

Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours

The second item on the agenda was the details of the urgent Motion To Prohibit Continued Study by the Nation's Officials During Office Hours, of which Article 1 and its notes were approved by the deputies.

Article 1: As of the date of this law's enactment, employment and continued study during office hours on work days during the week either inside or outside the country by agents employed in the Islamic Republic of Iran, whether in the executive, legislative or judicial power or in the Islamic revolutionary organizations and affiliated companies or any institutions that make use of the national budget in some way, is prohibited. Violators will be suspended from one to three years.

Note 1: Full-time continued study by agents is authorized if assigned or when on leave with a designated successor, to the extent that they do not have administrative employment during the time of study.

Note 2: Those with 50 percent or more in combat disabilities and combatants and former prisoners of war who were at the fronts or imprisoned for three full consecutive or cumulative years are exempt from the provisions of this law.

Note 3: The use of government budget and resources such as vehicles, drivers, and travel allowances is prohibited for continued study. The violator will be dealt with according to the laws and regulations for the illegal use of government assets.

Note 4: The National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization is responsible for implementing this law. Every three months it will issue a report on its work to the Majles Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission and the Majles Culture and Higher Education Commission.

Note 5: Privileges for the admission of government employees will remain as long as the provisions of this law are observed.

Note 6: The executive guidelines for this law will be prepared by the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization no more than three months after the enactment of this law, and will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Bill To Collect Some Government Revenues and Expenditures in Specified Cases

The final item on the agenda was the Bill To Collect Some Government Revenues and Expenditures in Specified Cases. In discussing this bill, Engineer Bahonar, expert for the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission, said:

In the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] the Government Revenues Bill was presented to the Majles. Since the bill had a lot of articles, most of the discussion was about revenues and expenditures. The Majles did not have the opportunity or did not feel that it had the opportunity to act on this law. The Majles decided based on Article 85 of the Constitution to have this law studied in the specialist commission and to be implemented in the country for five years. This law is now being openly implemented, but since its test period will end late this year, the government submitted this bill to the Majles some time ago to have the law converted to a permanent law.

In conclusion Mohammad Reza Bahonar added: We have no choice but to approve the general form of this bill, but we will have changes in its details. After comments by the expert from the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission, 'Abbasi, deputy from Bandar 'Abbas, spoke in opposition. He said: Approving this bill will remove the Majles from the domain of supervision and policy making. I believe that if this bill is approved there will no longer be a need for an annual budget law, because this bill provides for all those matters.

He then said: In approving this bill, you are increasing the service goods by 24 percent. Do not come back tomorrow asking why prices have increased. Current expenses as provided in this bill are unlimited and unaccountable, where it says to build some building or institute.

Speaking in support of the bill, Seyyed Reza Akrami said: We must gradually make self-sufficient all the organizations that provide service to the people. The current budgets we set on the nation's one-product oil revenues are really backbreaking and unreasonable. The people must pay the costs of completed services to the relevant organizations so the organization can carry on. After comments by supporters and opponents and hearing the views of the commission and the government representative, the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved.

*** 5 Jan**

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Dr. Rowhani, and Mr. Rahman, Mr. Hoseyni, and Mr. Qarimani, deputies from the cities of Shirvan, Qoroveh and West Eslamabad, gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Majles Highlights

Speeches

Hoseyni, deputy from Qoroveh, said: We respected deputies must do something so that the national budget will be distributed justly in view of the special problems in the municipalities. He added: The failure to control prices weakens the vulnerable and low-income class.

Rahmani, deputy from Shirvan, said: The focus of the Second Five-Year Plan must be the policies designated by the exalted leader. He added: Our financial system does not conform to the goal of social and economic justice.

Aman Narimani criticized the broadcast Sunday night of the film entitled "Blood of Peace-Loving Poeple," and said it promotes a spirit of violence. Continuing, he said: Every year 4.5 billion cubic meters of water is wasted in the province of Kermanshah and flows into Iraq.

Legislation

The Bill To Collect Indirect Taxes on Some Goods and Services was approved.

Urgent status was approved for the Motion To Supervise Trips Abroad by Government Workers.

Urgent status was approved for the Motion To Prohibit More than One Job for Government Workers.

Urgent status was not approved for the Motion To Prohibit the Production of Products Licensed by American and English Companies, such as Coca-Cola in Mashhad.

By Majles approval, 200 rials[Rls] in taxes will be collected for each liter of imported beverage, Rls5 for each domestic filter cigarette, and Rls2.5 for each unfiltered cigarette.

'Abdolreza Rahmani, Deputy From Shirvan

With regard to the planning system, we must move from the current centralized system to a noncentralized system.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Rahmani, deputy from Shirvan. During his speech he said: In view of current economic and political conditions and the fact that the Second Five-Year Plan has been delayed by one year and the Majles is in the process of approving the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget, this is an appropriate opportunity for us to study more closely and carefully the performance of the First Five-Year Plan and to identify its strengths and weaknesses in anticipation of the Second Five-Year Plan.

This year, in addition to approving the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget and reinforcing the strengths of the First Five-Year Plan, we must seek to remove its obstacles so that we will be able to set the Second Five-Year Plan in motion in the right way. If such a study does not take place and if we do not seek to remove those obstacles, then it is a certainty that cutting costs and making human investments will not be able to achieve the goals set in the Second Five-Year Plan and will result in wasting the nation's resources and abilities

In view of the fact that the most important goal is to preserve the government and the revolution, the focus of the plan must be designed and written according to the policies designated by the exalted leader. Every effort must be made to use these policies to preserve and reinforce the reason for the revolution's existence, which is indeed the ideology of the leadership and the people.

The speaker then discussed the main areas of focus for achieving these goals.

1. Setting a strategy for economic development and setting sector priorities. In this regard a decision must be made as to what will be the basis for the strategy of the nation's economic development. Since this matter cannot be separated from the political strategy, an organized, real, perpetual and stable decision must be made to set a general national policy at the national and international levels. Then, we must act to designate the responsibilities of each sector in overall decision making and setting priorities.

2. Creating suitable conditions for active public participation and involvement in economic affairs, investment and social and political affairs. In this regard what is important is public involvement as the key focus in preserving the revolution, and public participation in bringing to fruition the various economic, political and educational goals of the revolution. Public involvement and participation in various areas of public life must definitely take place in the framework of special and stable political, social and educational organizations so that they can play their part as an active and real body. Of course the manner of forming and organizing these organizations must be designed in view of the characteristics and qualities of the revolution and its ideology, and this will require special decisions and laws.

3. Reforming the nation's administrative and planning system. Since all decisions and law making and achieving of the designated goals must be done from within and by means of the administrative and political system, it is therefore necessary to do a basic review, because the performance and vast size of the current system are not that efficient. This fresh look can review basic issues such as the number of executive bodies, duties and responsibilities, relations, organizations, and the elimination of duplicated activities. He also said: Concerning the planning system, one must move away from the current centralized system to a noncentralized system, which will act in that government as a coordinating, policymaking and direction-setting element dealing only with the nation's basic and infrastructure affairs such as maintaining security, foreign policy, financial and monetary policy and affairs which society cannot handle.

4. Reforming the nation's monetary and financial system. In this regard we must write the laws so that the nation's monetary and financial bodies will act only on the affairs that pertain to them, those which involve making the nation's capital circulate rapidly. They must avoid doing company work and turning themselves into economic foundations, so they will be able to preserve the value of money and create conditions for stability and security in the nation's capital system. They must also attract and activate domestic and foreign capital and guide existing capital out of nonproductive and intermediary channels and into production activities.

5. Reform of the tax system. A large part of the expenses of developed nations are obtained through taxes, since this is an assured source of revenue for governments, and taxes are also used as economic leverage to direct capital and economic activities in addition to serving as a source of revenue. Unfortunately our tax system does not play such roles. Due to its lack of vigor and efficiency, it does not conform to the goal of greater economic and social justice. Because the rights and wages of the government cannot be obtained from those who have the incomes, most of the pressure is applied to the low-income classes. In this regard basic decisions must be made about the tax system.

6. Writing laws to privatize and determine who will take responsibility for doing this. Since the government economic sectors have not been able to establish that they are the best thing, the government is now looking at the policy of privatization. Unfortunately the responsibility for doing this has not yet been designated by law and there has not been that much success in this regard. If there is the will to do such a thing, the necessary policies and executive guidelines must be written by the Majles and the government. When the one responsible for privatization is determined, then steps can be taken to activate the policy. In this regard questions such as which industries, how and under what conditions, to whom, for what purpose and for how long must be answered.

7. Determining the situation in government companies. Because the administration of government companies does not follow a specific system and there is no careful supervision of their performance, legal steps must be taken to supervise them in order to change their structure and determine how to make them profitable.

8. Establishing a strong and precise policy of supervision. Unfortunately, what is evident is that there is no precise and reliable system of supervision over the nature of activity and performance in the nation's various economic and political executive sectors.

Because the role of supervision is very effective as a means of evaluation, setting directions and decision making, suitable steps must be taken in this area to make the supervisory organizations active and precise, and also to make it possible to create the desired and ideal supervision. Supervision must be designed to move from outside to inside the system. In this regard the most reliable supervision is supervision of affairs by the people, acting in their own special political and social bodies.

9. Setting a timetable for repaying debts and meeting financial commitments. In view of the amounts of commitments and existing revenues, the government must seek to continue repayments on a special timetable so that the necessary repayments will gradually be made.

10. Prioritizing development projects and programs. In view of the great volume of development projects whose average life is about 15 years, it is necessary to make the added value of projects efficient by prioritizing them in view of the size of existing revenues.

Seyyed Mas'ud Hoseyni, Deputy From Qoroveh

The next speaker was Hoseyni, deputy from Qoroveh. During his speech he said: We are now the heirs to a powerful government, which rules in the hearts of millions of free people. In this regard our Islamic government is regarded as one of the world's most stable governments. It is for this reason that it has been attacked by the imperialists and they have created economic problems for us. He emphasized attention to the deprived areas in approving the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget and the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: The province of Kordestan received little attention in the time of the idolaters and it lacks the necessary cultural, educational, and economic resources. In view of that, in the area of culture it is necessary to mention the lack of public libraries, the lack of sound recreation to fill the free time of youth and the lack of resources for artistic activities.

He discussed the problem of unemployment in the country and said: Unfortunately little attention is being given to this matter. In this regard the province of Kordestan is a rich resource for hidden talents, and it is hoped that the necessary use will be made of it. He added: If the necessary attention is given in Kordestan to alleviating the problems of unemployment, investment in the production sector and creating mother industry factories instead of dealing with some other issues, it would benefit both the government and the people of this region.

The deputy from Qoroveh then noted: In view of the aforementioned problems and the obligation we deputies have to the noble people of Iran, measures must be taken so that the nation's general budget will be distributed justly and with a view to the special problems in that municipality.

Hoseyni asked the government to prevent unbridled increases in the prices for goods. He said: The failure to control prices weakens society's vulnerable and low-income class. I ask the respected ministers to supervise the performance of the individuals in their organizations, because this is one of the basic tasks of proper and sound management in the offices and ministries. This will please the noble people of Iran and advance society.

He added: I ask the respected government not to spare any effort in supporting domestic producers and production, to encourage them, and also to strictly prohibit the importation of goods resembling the domestic varieties, so that domestic producers can continue expanding their production through greater effort and determination. In this way we can have a self-sufficient country.

He emphasized supporting and strengthening inventors. He said: For this purpose, special attention must be given to basic research. To achieve this goal we must strengthen research in the universities and centers of

higher education so our nation's specialists and experts will have no problems with theory and practice after they graduate. Likewise, using this method, we will be able to increase the knowledge base throughout the country. I ask the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to take steps to build universities and educational centers throughout the country. In view of the fact that about 22 percent of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget is allocated to the Ministry of Education and Training, I ask the minister of education and training to build and complete classroom space.

Hoseyni then asked for help and cooperation from the judiciary in dealing with the many problems of the people of Iran and in implementing Islamic justice in society, from the Ministry of Agriculture in building a silo for the region's farmers and from the minister of health, treatment and medical education in the completion of the hospital under construction.

Aman Narimani, Deputy From West Eslamabad

The failure to control prices weakens society's weak and low-income classes. In the province of Kermanshah every year 4.5 billion cubic meters of water is wasted and flows into Iraq.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Narimani, deputy from West Eslamabad. He complained about the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: In the words of the late Imam (peace be upon him), the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be a public university for teaching the culture of Islam and raising the educational level of society.

He added: Last Monday night a film was broadcast by the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran which I myself did not see, but they called from the province precinct (Kermanshah) and expressed unhappiness with the fact that the film and its message, while containing positive points, was really an insult to the people of the province and it suggested that a spirit of violence, lack of forgiveness and dastardliness prevails among these people.

Recently in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] another film entitled "The Jug's Wedding" was broadcast. I and several other deputies from the province spoke with the respected official there. I convinced him that with regard to all these points we have in society, positive points, why go chasing like a fly after trash and weaknesses? Let us portray the positive points. Let us portray morality and social customs.

When there is protest, they say this is like a story that happened several years ago. Sir, in these few years of my life I have seen several cases like this film "Blood of Peace-Loving People." With what kind of magnanimity, heroism, and generosity was the murderer forgiven? However, this scene showed a person wearing a martyr's robe, Koran and dagger or sword in hand doing the same thing, but not in the best way. I am not saying that such a thing could not happen. Once every 10 years someone with a personality defect has a grudge and cannot forgive, and he kills someone. However, I have seen several cases of the ultimate in heroism, where they kissed the Koran and said I am forgiven by the Koran. Why do we avoid realities and tell stories?

There are so many of these bitter and sweet realities in our society, which are full of cultural and educational points, why are we seeking the weak points? I discussed that issue of the Jug once and the deputies from the province showed sensitivity. The Research and Investigation Commission was even invited to show the film, and they said the protest was acceptable. What is this great divine university giving the people? Does this mean that we do not have the right to ask what the message of this film was for the people?

At the conclusion of his talk, the deputy from Abadan added: With regard to writing the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget, I will be very brief and say only that, God willing, the respected commissions should participate actively and with sensitivity in studying and setting priorities in the budget approval process. What is important to us is the wasting of water in the western part of the country. In the province of Kermanshah every year 4.5 billion cubic meters of water is wasted and flows into Iraq.

In the future, one of the important and determining factors in the international destiny and independence of nations will definitely be the issue of water and soil. It is showing itself right now. In this regard talks have been held with the respected officials so that this water will not be wasted. Therefore this point must be given the attention of the respected Energy Commission.

Legislation

Bill To Collect Indirect Taxes on Some Goods and Services

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission on the Bill To Collect Indirect Taxes on Some Goods and Services.

Mr. Bahonar, expert for the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission, discussed this bill. He said: This bill is like the same bill that was in the Majles yesterday, in that some of its provisions are now being experimentally implemented, and all of these articles have been separated from the provisions in the previous bill. For example, in the current law we collect taxes on domestically produced beverages, but we do not collect taxes on imported beverages. Unfortunately, what is being implemented is just the opposite of the policies that the people and the deputies expect to see implemented. Instead of collecting taxes on imports, we now do the opposite. In this bill, however, this has been corrected and compensated. It is therefore natural to collect at least as much tax or even more on imports as is collected on domestic products.

He then said: It is likely that in the second consultation this bill will be amended and the figures and numbers will change.

The expert from the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission also said: The revenues that were received under this bill for the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] were about Rls447 billion. In view of the fact that some of them have been amended, in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget in the government budget the revenues under this law are expected to be about Rls500 billion.

Astaneh, deputy from Sarband-e Arak, spoke in opposition to this bill. He said: I believe that increased prices and higher expenses such as those for domestic and imported cigarettes must all be collected from the people, and it is the people who must pay the penalty for these price increases. We must take note of the effects this law has on the life of the people and what amount of these revenues can be used to solve the problems of the people.

Seyfian, deputy from Tehran, spoke in support of the bill. He said: Taxes can be a proper source of revenue in any country, provided that we are careful in explaining the law and take the capabilities of the people into account, although there is room for discussion concerning some of the direct taxes the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has printed. There are a lot of thugs in the country who evade paying taxes on various pretexts and they must be pursued. I believe that if this bill is adopted properly it will have an effect on our expenditures and they can be controlled well. We believe that the respected Majles should prohibit the importation of various kinds of cigarettes and beverages.

'Abbasi, deputy from Bandar 'Abbas, spoke in opposition. He said: This bill is very flawed. Why should we act in this way? Taxes change the entire economy. You are taxing only imported cigarettes and beverages, yet there are other items that should also be taxed. It is absolutely not right to authorize this in this way. You should say, sir, you export this item and import beverages in exchange. When you put a 20-toman tax on each foreign beverage and cigarette, those people will smuggle the goods into the country. Those people have learned so much that they are experts. You must therefore make laws in such a way that they will act within the law and through customs.

Mohsen Kuhkan, deputy from Lanjan, spoke in support of the bill. He said: Taxes on cigarettes will cover part of the budget, but on the other hand we must pay attention to treating the undesirable effects of cigarettes on public health. It is a good thing that we are raising taxes on the production of domestic cigarettes, so consumption will decrease. What is the need for us to lower taxes to increase domestic production? What value does doing this have for us?

Concerning the taxation of imported automobiles, we must see who is using the automobiles. Is the low-income class using them? It is society's comfortable class that is using them. Kuhkan also recommended: We should set a percentage rate instead of a figure in rials, because with price increases and decreases the amount of taxes individuals pay will be balanced and reasonable.

The next opponent to the bill was Seyyed Reza Akrami, deputy from Semnan. In his speech he said: I believe that approving this bill, especially late in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], will have negative consequences in society. Unfortunately, out of the bill's more than 50 notes, some newspapers have taken just a few and written about them on their front pages and created negative consequences, yet the final decision belongs to the Majles. We believe that this is a kind of unfairness that some publications are dealing with the nation's fundamental affairs. Just between me and you, the price of gasoline is still 5 tomans. When we buy a liter of water in Saudi Arabia during the Haj, it costs 1 Saudi rial (45 tomans), yet fuel in our country is Rls50 per liter. Is this appropriate pricing? Is there any need to import bananas? Don't we ourselves have fruit? We should be a fruit exporter, not an importer. You should tax bananas.

He then said: Channels 1 and 2 in our country still cannot be picked up. Unfortunately, at the borders they are still quite weak, but then we suddenly start up channel three, and with thousands of problems and expectations. How are we going to manage the country with these things?

Akrami also added: The people are not unhappy about the high cost of goods, they are unhappy about selling at high prices and the lack of supervision. You should set prices on 50 items and exercise strong supervision over them.

The deputy from Semnan discussed Mr. 'Abbasi's remarks. He said: One day Mr. 'Abbasi discusses polygamy, and now he is saying that not smoking cigarettes is nothing more than a slogan. What is this that you are saying behind the podium? Not smoking cigarettes requires will power and a decision. Martyr Beheshti said that addiction to cigarettes will be the beginning of addiction to many sins. Why not stop smoking?

Akrami also added: I have a complaint against the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission. The commission chief says that the European nations manage their countries with an 85-percent tax rate. However, when this same commission proposes taxing 15 items, you should take a comprehensive view.

After comments by opponents and supporters, the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved. This bill states that the government will collect a tax of Rls20 on each liter of imported beverage (barley water, various types of cola and carbonated beverages, fruit juice and the like), Rls5 on each domestic filter cigarette and Rls2.5 on unfiltered domestic cigarettes. Based on Article 3, for each person eligible for compulsory service who has been excused from service for various reasons

(with the exception of the families of martyrs), a stamp charge of Rls5,000 will be collected for the issuance of an exemption card.

Likewise the government will collect a stamp fee of Rls3,000 for issuing an international driver's license, a stamp tax of Rls50,000 will be collected for issuing a transit plate, Rls300 will be collected for each ton of cement produced by domestic factories, and a tax of Rls100,000 will be collected for issuing a number to each vehicle that comes into the country temporarily.

Article 7 states: Taxes on alcohol will be Rls200 for each 600 cc bottle, Rls100 for industrial alcohol and Rls10 for each 500 grams of solid industrial alcohol.

Judicial Appeals Law

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission concerning the motion to append three notes to Article 17 of the Judicial Appeals Law enacted 5/17/1372 [8 August 1993], the general form of which was not approved and was rejected.

Report on Mr. Bualfath's Question to Former Minister of the Interior

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Articles 88 and 90 Commission concerning Mr. Bualfath's question to the former minister of the interior (Mr. Nuri). The above report was read to the Majles.

Following the return of the question from Mr. 'Ali Bualfath, deputy from Molavi, to the former minister of the interior (Nuri) concerning the method of distributing basic goods in the province of Lorestan by that province's reconstruction staff, the question was presented in due course to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission. After listening to the report and the speeches by the two parties, since the prerogatives of the Reconstruction Staff were assigned to the governor-general by the executive vice-president of the republic, the question of the former minister of the interior giving an answer was worthy of study and discussion.

In this regard the commission asked the respected Council of Guardians to issue an interpretation of Articles 127 and 137 of the Constitution. The consultative view of that council was announced in Letter 5477 dated 8/23/1372 [14 November 1993]. In view of the Council of Guardian's consultative opinion, the commission announced its opinion as follows: The Majles can only question the president of the republic or his ministers about duties that they legally hold or have delegated to someone else. Therefore, the person being questioned was not the minister of the interior and the commission in this regard does not consider the question from Mr. Bualfath to the former minister of the interior to be admissible.

Urgent Motion To Supervise Foreign Trips by Government Workers

The Motion To Supervise Foreign Trips by Government Workers was submitted as an urgent motion by a group of deputies. Discussing the motion, Mohsen Kuhkan said: The motion is expected to control pointless and excessive trips, which entail foreign exchange expenses for the country.

Speaking in opposition, Movahedi Savaji said: We can put a note in the Budget Bill and specify this there. Therefore, there is no need for urgency.

Speaking in support, Qashqavi said: The respected Majles is studying the question of doing research and investigation on foreign trips, and I hope this will be done as quickly as possible. I believe that these trips are excessive by definition.

After the remarks by Qashqavi, the urgent status of the motion was put to a vote and approved.

Motion To Prohibit More Than One Job for Government Workers

The urgent Motion To Prohibit More Than One Job for Government Workers was presented to the Majles by the deputies. In discussing it, Yusefpur said: In view of Article 141 of the Constitution, the president of the republic, the vice-presidents of the republic, ministers, and government workers cannot have more than one job. Because this has not been an ordinary law in the last 15 years, if someone held two posts it was not known what penalties to apply. A law is needed to prevent this. Unfortunately, many of the gentlemen have 15 to 22 posts, and the only work they do is work the government assigns to them.

After talks by opponents and supporters, urgent status for the motion was put to a vote and approved.

Motion To Prohibit the Production of Products Licensed to American and English Companies

Likewise, in this session the Motion To Prohibit the Production of Products Licensed to American and English Companies was presented as an urgent motion. In discussing the motion, Yusefpur said: In recent years we have seen that some companies, seeking a profit, and despite all our shouts of "death to America," have started producing products domestically, which are licensed by American companies. For example, domestic beverages are often used by the people, especially in the deprived provinces, and they have even been faced with production shortages. A company called "Mashhad" came and produced Coca-Cola under American license. Other companies came under license from other countries and are producing heavy hauling equipment. There is no need for us to make goods under (American and British) license. What need is there for us to produce goods under license to Britain, which is protecting the accursed Salman Rushdie? In order for us to strike

another blow against America, whose agents want to produce its products domestically, the deputies must vote for this urgent status.

After talks by opponents and supporters, the motion's urgent status was put to a vote and was rejected.

Letter From 137 Deputies on Designating Special Days

A letter signed by 137 deputies addressed to the respected president of the republic concerning Combatants and Former Prisoners of War, Revolutionary Guards, and Oppressed People's Days, was read as follows: In the sacred and valued government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to guard the services of those who sacrificed and gave their lives for the bloody line of the Islamic revolution, the birth anniversary of His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him), the joy of the free people of the world, has been named Revolutionary Guard Day, the birth anniversary of the brave leader of Karbala, His Holiness Abol-Fazl al-'Abbas (peace be upon him) was named Injured Veterans Day, and the birth anniversary of the standard-bearer of world justice was named Oppressed People's Day. Since the Islamic nation's dear and proud former prisoners of war were heroes of steadfastness and resistance, it is requested that the birth anniversary of the Fourth Star in the Sky of Vice-Regency and the Emamate, His Holiness Sajjad (peace be upon him), be named Former Prisoners of War Day.

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[Excerpt] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session last Sunday with Hojjat el-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies from the cities of Jiroft, Fuman, Qom, Dehloran, and Maku made speeches. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Selections

'Ali Zadsar, Deputy From Jiroft

The Islamic government must encourage and reward those who serve more than ever before and punish the traitors at any rank and position.

Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, Deputy From Fuman

The Islamic revolution has been expanding every day, and from the corners of the world the freedom seekers have their hopeful eyes on it and use it as a model for struggle.

Hoseyn Irani, Deputy From Qom

Dey 19 [9 January] is the day that the seeds were spread, and with its blood-colored growth on 22 Bahman 1357 [11 February 1979] it came to fruition. Hence, 19 Dey must be kept alive forever.

Mr. Hassani, Deputy From Dehloran

Economic planning must be based on lofty Islamic values.

Ratification

Among the ratifications of the Majles were the rejection of the bill to amend Article 33 of the law on the collection of some government revenues and spending them for specific purposes, the ratification of the bill to allow the joining of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Children's Rights Convention, ratification of the bill on international goods and passenger air transport agreement between the Governments of the Islamic Republic and Greece, and the postponement of the bill of the budget of government companies, banks, and for-profit establishments affiliated with the government for a period of three months.

'Ali Zadsar, Deputy From Jiroft

(The Judicial Branch) must make arrangements for all the violators of government and nongovernment organizations to fear the houses of justice of the Islamic Republic.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles last Sunday was Zadsar, from Jiroft, who, honoring the anniversary of 19 Dey and the memory of the uprising of the resurrection-creating people of Qom, Self-Sacrificers Week, and the coming of the prophethood of the Prophet, said: God has granted prosperity to the true experts to fill the physical void of the founder of the Islamic Republic by entrusting the ship of the Islamic revolution in the capable hands of the pure son of the Prophet, his honor Imam Khamene'i. After the death of the religious jurist, Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, the blessed shadow of the source of emulation, Grand Ayatollah Araki, is spread over the Islamic society, and we can all be assured that the leadership of the Islamic world with the attention of the sincere friend is achievable.

Pointing out that the Second Five-Year Plan was not presented at the proper time to the Majles, and the committees of the Majles are busy with the careful examination of the two rounds of discussion on the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget bill, he said: The vast country of Iran, in the course of the First Five-Year Plan, changed its appearance. Fundamental investments were astonishing and some of the positive results are evident.

Hence, the 1373 budget must be examined and ratified as a complement to the First Plan and a preface to the Second Plan.

The leader of the revolution spoke regarding the governing policies in the Second Plan and said:

The cowardly conspiracy to decrease the price of oil, which was carried out by the criminal United States, has caused our country to be saved from dependence on black gold to a great extent and has forced us to design

the economic foundation of the country minus the foreign currency obtained from oil.

This important matter can be done provided we exercise our national will and, by tolerating certain hardships and conservation, see the bright future of the country.

He also asked for strong conservation in the annual expenditures, especially the current expenditures of various companies, and said: Unfortunately, we do not even know of one executive organization that has given its proposal to decrease its expenditures. Rather, at the present time, the reverse is pursued in various committees. Based on initial estimates, the foreign currency revenues in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] are a little over half of the foreign currency revenues of 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. Hence, it is the duty of the deputies of the nation to carefully decrease the unnecessary expenditures of the various organizations to a level that they can operate at minimum resources.

In continuation, he added: The nonoil export revenues, especially in the government sector and companies affiliated with the government, must be specified and organized. I suggest that the honorable Majles in the 1373 budget allocate a special line for depositing the abovementioned revenues in the Treasury, as the Constitution instructs us. Of course, this does not mean that the organization should not benefit from the profit made with their efforts. I emphasize that the proposal of the government in the 1373 budget to decrease obligations by $1 billion, considering their banking interest, is insufficient and the Majles must not agree to less than $2 billion.

He then thanked the president for his successful (presidential) visits to various provinces of the country and asked that he visit the city of Kohnuj of Kerman, which did not exist before the revolution.

He then condemned relations with the United States and said: As Your Honor (President) in your recent sermons considered constructive criticism useful, the nation requests that the Islamic Republic more than ever before encourage and reward those who serve and punish traitors at any rank, make everyone obey the law, prevent autocracy and the imposition of personal tastes, and carry out the current laws at all levels and in regards to everyone. Officials who make statements in their interviews upon which they do not act later must be questioned. Those who at the present time live so extravagantly that it bothers the people should be told not to do so and at least asked how they have acquired the money, if, of course, they have government responsibility. Those who make financial and political misuse of a government position and, God forbid, cause cynicism in regards to the regime, must be dealt with decisively. The unknown soldiers of the revolution should be given more legal authority in the Ministry of Information, the National General Inspection Office, the Constitutional Articles 88 and 90 Committee, and the Administrative Court of Justice to punish government and nongovernment violators. The ungodly writers who have unsheathed the sharp sword of the pen with destructive sentences and beheaded the religious and Islamic beliefs of the Muslims, especially the post-revolutionary generation, must be put in their place. If an improper person has unjustly occupied a key responsibility in the regime, he must be dismissed. In one word, if there are obstacles on the path of the above-mentioned organization, the government must remove them. It seems that it would be beneficial for the Ministry of Information to have more legal authority.

Then, pointing out that the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran must pay more attention to the management of the society, he said: For example, when the Council of Guardians, whose members are the competent, just protectors appointed by the religious guardian, endorse the competence of a deputy and his election, he must later on be really a deputy. Or it must be explained to the society that a deputy is only a legislator who oversees the government organizations, one who has no right to interfere in the executive affairs, so that the people do not go to a Majles deputy to solve their problems, which is the proper way to do it, which is not so now. A minister, a governor-general, or a governor should not dare act fractionally and politically when the affairs of the people are followed up by the deputy of the people.

Continuing, he added: Ayatollah Yazdi, who is the chief justice of the government, must arrange it so that the violators of all government and nongovernment organizations and any violators be afraid of the houses of justice of the Islamic Republic, so that the people believe more than ever before that a violator of the religious and current laws in the country, even at the level of a minister, deputy, Friday imam, judge, and their relatives, shall be punished for their offenses. Then, many of the present offenses would not occur.

Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, Deputy From Fuman

We must try to eliminate the existing economic problems of the people.

The next speaker was Shafi'i, from Fuman, who offered his congratulations on the prophethood of the revered Prophet and said: The revered Prophet of Islam founded the great Islamic civilization only by relying on God. Today, the source of astonishment for all the world thinkers, as an illiterate man, has presented the world with a religion immune to harm.

He added: Our Islamic revolution can be compared in some ways with the start of the Islamic movement. At that time, the superpower of the East, Iran, and the superpower of the West, Rome, dominated the world, and gradually, the foundation of their power crumbled and the world changed politically and socially. The Islamic revolution under the leadership of the late Imam began under conditions when the superpower of the East, the former Soviet Union, and the superpower of the

West, the United States, were at the height of their progress. Before long, the pounding divine waves that the Islamic revolution created spread throughout the world and the revered Imam's prediction materialized. The foundation of the Soviet power crumbled and fell apart. Today, we see it as a beggar pleading to the West.

Stating that today the United States is no longer the former United States, he said: That country has fallen apart from every perspective, both politically and economically, as well as socially and morally. In the meantime, we see that the Islamic revolution has expanded every day, and from every corner of the world, freedom seekers have set their hopeful eyes on it and take their model of struggle from it. We see examples of it in Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, etc.

In continuation, the deputy from Fuman explained: We must be alert and not be negligent of the tricks of the enemy and keep the people. In his recent speech, the president spoke about the economy programs and their progress. While expressing thanks and appreciation to him and all the government officials and understanding all the problems, we consider it necessary to make one point, that he described the people as loyal and eager for the revolution, as is truly so. For this reason, I must say that we must try harder for these people and eliminate their economic obstacles, reduce the rate of unemployment, reduce the backbreaking burden of high prices, prevent the entry of certain goods, and in this way thank our appreciative and loyal people.

Shafi'i added: The noble people of Gilan impatiently await the blessed visit of the president and count the moments until they see him. Hence, I ask the president to respond to this expectation as soon as possible.

Referring to the damage to the rice crop in the region, he asked that time be given to the farmers to pay their debts in future years.

Hoseyn Irani, Deputy From Qom

Hoseyn Irani was the next speaker. He offered his congratulations on the prophethood of the Seal of the Prophets, and referring to the 19 Dey uprising in Qom, he said: [passages omitted about Islamic comments].

Mohammad Hasani, Deputy From Dehloran

The next speaker was Hasani, the deputy from Dehloran, who offered his congratulations on the prophethood of the revered Prophet and said: The purpose of the prophethood of divine prophets was to save humanity from darkness and misguidance and direct them toward light, salvation, and prosperity in this and the next world.

In order to achieve these lofty goals, he expressed divine laws and to implement these liberating instructions and to operate the society on the basis of Islamic principles, he did not hesitate at any self-sacrifice. Under the present conditions and in the present age, when human societies are captives in the hands of Satanic powers, which by imposing policies made by human schools are about to eliminate the guiding path of divine prophets from the minds of a negligent humanity and falsely think that they have made the world into one pole and under their own domination.

In continuation, the speaker said: It is the duty of us, as the deputies of the nation in the Majles, devoid of regional and district prejudices and views, to take into consideration the general problems of the regime of the Islamic Republic and the beloved country and in devising the economic and large-scale policies of the society and allocating developmental funds move towards the elimination of unjust discrimination and the elimination of deprivation from the face of the deprived regions and, in short, prepare the grounds for social justice and building a society in which human beings can attain the desirable growth and blossoming that secures their salvation. For this purpose, the past mistakes and the waste and extravagance and the methods of testing and error and repetition must be avoided.

In continuation, he also added: Economic planning in a way that all activities, even retail sales, are conferred on the government and also privatization, to the extent that entrusting all economic affairs including fundamental and essential activities that even the government is incapable of in the short term, such as water, electricity, communication, and parent industries, to the private sector and eliminating government supervision over our economic affairs will not bring us the justice intended in the ideology. Rather, economic planning must be on the basis of lofty Islamic values and the government as the supervisor and regulator of economic relations must carry out the fundamental affairs and whenever necessary interfere decisively, and by devising a correct tax system and use of other economic monetary and financial tools reduce the gap between the poor and the rich and prevent the creation of conditions in which inflation and hardship of living weighs heavily on the shoulders of the low-income strata of the society, for such a situation will cause the Islamic values to lose their effectiveness.

The deputy of Dehloran said in continuation: Social justice will not be gained unless the officials and implementors of the affairs with their strong will regulate and conform their personal life and executive ideas to the action of the great religious figures.

He then added: Since the Majles and the government have so far not acted on their supervisory duties as they should, we have in the past witnessed many violations in the administrative system of the country, and this has caused corrupt elements to infiltrate in the regime and raise questions in regards to the efforts of the serving government, which has truly had significant success in fundamental issues and public services. Hence, it is expected that the Majles, the president, the Cabinet, and especially the judicial powers, by using open and secret supervisory elements and rapid and decisive dealing

with the violators of the law and distinguishing between the servants and the traitors, fulfill this just demand of the people.

He then spoke about the problems of his constituency.

Mohammad 'Abbaspur, Deputy From Maku

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad 'Abbaspur, from Maku, who began his speech as follows: [poem omitted]

He added: Last week, one of the prominent religious figures of Iranian Armenians implicitly endorsed the energy and the aggression of the paramilitary in Armenia against the Muslims of Azerbaijan and considered the occupation of Qarabagh their legal and historical right, in the same way that the pope, by recognizing Israel, considered the rights of the Muslim people of Palestine as belonging to the Zionists. While these hasty expressions of opinion without historical evidence and documentation are contrary to the statements of the grand leader and the policy of the Islamic Republic and the direction of the Leadership Council of the Armenians of Iran concerning the issue of Azerbaijan and Armenia, our sincere and truthful Armenian compatriots know well where the seed of these conflicts has germinated and in the interest of which Zionist weapons company is igniting the fire of war and bloodshed.

The solidarity of the Vatican with Israel will have no result except colonization and murder.

If Palestine is to belong to Israel, Bosnia to the Serbs, and Azerbaijan and Qarabagh to Armenia, I do not think this impudence and expansion can be further tolerated by the Islamic world and the Muslim nations.

Referring to the examination of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget in the Majles, he asked the deputies, by expert work in the area of creating jobs and attending to the budget of this section, to eliminate false jobs especially in the populated cities by investing in deprived regions of the country in order to prevent the migration of villagers to the cities and by providing security for domestic products, particularly in the agricultural, animal husbandry, and rural industries sector, bring noncil exports to its actual place in the Second Plan and pave the road for the return of the producers from cities to villages willingly and eagerly, and completely free our economy from dependence on a single product.

In conclusion, in regards to the problems of his constituency, he mentioned the city of Maku as lacking necessary funds.

Ratifications

1. The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the report on the first round of discussions by the Economic Affairs, Finance and Cooperatives Committee concerning the bill to amend Article 33 of the law on certain government revenues and their use for specific purposes, of which the general points were rejected.

Mohammad Reza Bahonar, the spokesman of the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee, said in regards to the bill: In the past week we had two bills on the floor of the Majles. Considering the ratification of the bill on collecting some of the government revenues, the second round of discussions on which is ahead of us, the ratification of the bill under way now is no longer necessary. In 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], when the 7-toman foreign currency rate was changed to the floating foreign currency rate, the Majles ratified a law to collect 20,000 tomans from every passenger who travels abroad as exit and airport tax, and it was clear for what projects this money would be spent. This law is now being implemented. But in recent years, because the airline rates returned to the floating rate and the price of airline tickets increased, gradually the issue of collecting airport taxes disappeared. The Economic Council, as far as we know, has suspended the collection of these fees for some time. Naturally, if the price of the ticket is at the floating rate, this will place a great deal of pressure on the people. The government brought this bill to the Majles to reduce the 20,000 tomans to 7,000 tomans, and the committee ratified the present bill. But because that general bill is under way, there is no longer a need for this amendment, and we ask the Majles not to vote for this bill; the 20,000-toman airport tax is no longer an issue.

Bill Permitting the Government of the Islamic Republic To Join the Children's Rights Convention

2. The second item on the agenda was a report by the Judicial Committee concerning the bill to permit the Islamic Republic of Iran to join the Children's Rights Convention, which was ratified.

Single article. The Children's Rights Convention, including one preface and 54 articles attached, is ratified and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is permitted to join it, provided that should any case at any time be contrary to the internal laws and Islamic standards, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be obliged to observe them.

3. The report of the Housing and Urban Committee concerning the bill on the international goods and passenger transportation agreement between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Greece was the third item on the agenda, which was ratified by the deputies.

Postponement of the Bill on the Budget of Government Companies

4. The fourth item on the agenda was the report by the Planning and Budget Committee concerning the bill on the budget of government companies, banks, and for-profit establishments affiliated with the government, stated in Paragraph A of Note 2 of the above-mentioned law.

A number of deputies asked that the bill be postponed, and Engineer Bahonar explained:

In the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] ratified budget, there were many unclear points in the examination of the situation of the government companies in connection with the budget of government companies, and it was argued that the companies must be regulated. On the whole, in the notes, two proposals were made by the Accounting Committee, and it was decided that the government in 1372 should act on 6/12 of its budget and give the bill to reform the government companies to the Majles and the Majles should ratify the budget of the government companies in 1372 as an amendment. Unfortunately, the government did not prepare this bill on time, and the ratification of the bill was postponed until late Aban [November]. In other words, it was given to the Majles one month after the date of implementation. The expert committees worked very hard on this bill and every committee invited the related officials and examined it. Because the legal time had expired, the government again gave a bill to the Majles, which is the law that is being examined now. Until this bill is ratified, give us the legal permission for the companies to operate. And the Majles recently issued this permit. Now this bill is on the floor of the Majles. There are several reasons for the proposal to postpone it. 1) At the present, the expert committees are generally concentrating on the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget. 2) On the other hand, we have a serious problem, which is in this interval, the internal bylaws of the Majles have changed in connection with the ratification of the budget bill and its amendment. The Plan and Budget Committee has also written and ratified this bill on the basis of the previous bylaws. Hence, the Majles, with its careful examination, is ready to regulate well the budget of the government companies in 1373. Also, if this bill is even ratified, the government has implemented 10/12 of the budget of its companies, and only Bahman [21 January-19 February] and Esfand [20 February-20 March] of this year remain, that is, 2/12. Hence, it is proposed that this bill be postponed for three months.

After the opposing and supporting speeches, the proposal to postpone the bill of the budget of government companies was put to a vote and was ratified.

It is noteworthy that since this law will be postponed for three months, it will be automatically extended to the end of 1372.

Proposal To Amend Article 34 of the Law on the Protection and Operation of Forests and Pastures

5. Report on the second round of discussions of the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee concerning the proposal to amend Article 34 of the law on the protection and use of forests and pastures ratified on 14/03/1354 [4 June 1975] and the attachment of several notes to it, the examination of which was postponed to the next session.

Letter of 137 Deputies Addressed to the Head of the Judicial Branch

Respectfully, we offer our thanks for the recent changes in the Judicial Branch and the appointment of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbasifard, who is a just, alert, and sincere judge who is absolutely obedient to the leadership and the religious guardian, as the executive deputy and the appointment of Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahrokhi-Qobadi as the head of the Administrative Justice Court and the adjudication disciplinary prosecutor of judges, who are among the concerned people of the regime and the Islamic revolution. We ask God for your increased success and that of your revered colleagues in serving Islam and the implementation of Islamic equity and justice.

Weekly Agenda of Majles Committees

Introduction: What follows is the agenda of the weekly sessions of the Majles committees, from 18/10/1372 to 22/10/1372 [8-12 January 1994].

Islamic Guidance and Art and Media Committee

Examination of the budget of the Islamic Propaganda Organization.
Examination of the budget of the Art Center.
Examination of the budget of the Hajj Pilgrimage Organization.
Examination of the budget of Qom Propagation.
Examination of the budget of the Religious Endowment Organization.

Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee

Continuation of the examination of the proposal to determine the fees of notary public offices.

The Remainder of the Committees

Continuation of the examination of the 1373 national budget.

*** 11 Jan**

94LA0065A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
12 Jan 94 pp 5, 15

[Excerpt] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies from the cities of Zahedan, Izeh, Tehran, and Mianeh made pre-agenda speeches. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of speeches and discussions.

Madad Azarkish, Deputy From Zahedan

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Azarkish from Zahedan, who offered his congratulations on the prophethood of the revered prophet and Self-Sacrificers Week and said: As you know, the Islamic revolution of Iran, by relying on God and inspiration from the life-giving instructions of

the Koran, has given the people of Iran the glory to claim justice including social justice in human society.

In continuation, he added: While the government of the Islamic Republic seriously and with utmost effort is trying to eliminate economic dependence, it is proper that the self-sufficiency policy project of some of the ministries, organizations, and companies not cause the uncontrolled increase in the price of some of the essential services of the government, such as water, electricity, telephone, fuel, and treatment expenditures, because inflation and anxiety have caused new severe economic pressures on the low-income strata and make the vulnerable stratum of the Islamic Republic worried and live in hardship, especially in deprived regions. Due to unemployment, people suffer from lack of income, which causes problems in every day living and sometimes the disintegration of families.

The speaker also said: I request that attention be paid to the deprived and distant regions, and more than ever before, instead of speaking of support for the deprived, that we act and not allow the villagers and residents of border cities to abandon the borders for lack of water, electricity, roads, health services, and schools and rush to the Persian Gulf countries, large cities, and the capital to work as servants of capitalists, because this is contrary to the goals of the Islamic Republic. I recommend to myself and my colleagues that in order to please the soul of the founder of the Islamic Republic and the beloved martyrs do not allow the rights of the compatriots, because to violate the rights of the oppressed is an unforgivable sin.

In continuation, the speaker added: Since social justice is one of the important goals of the Islamic Republic and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, it is most unfortunate that we witness some discrimination in the sacred Islamic regime. I hereby ask the honorable president to investigate and eliminate it immediately.

He also said: Considering my previous speech, unfortunately, the failure to employ native Sunni and Shi'ite brothers and sisters in positions that they deserve and for which they are qualified continues. Still the high-ranking officials have not examined the regions where Shi'ites and Sunnis live and the necessary modifications have not taken place. This is seriously the case with regard to the criticism and discontent of the employees and residents of these regions. It is appropriate to entrust the affairs to their own competent and faithful people who have experience and scholars. The mosque is the house of God, and its destruction causes discontent and disunity among Islamic sects, an action that is unforgivable.

He also asked for immediate solutions regarding religious textbooks or books with Islamic content suitable for the Sunnis and the followers of the Hanafi and Shafe'i sects, teaching by expert individuals, and establishing a theological university in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

Continuing, the speaker said: I have come here as a deputy from a people who have been deprived throughout history, and this has prevented their potential from being put to work and they continue to live in deprivation. Considering actual and tangible cultural and economic facts, the depth of deprivation is so vast that even if several times the attention that has been paid were to take place, it would still be insufficient. Hence, I ask that the honorable president and the honorable speaker of the Majlis:

By visiting the people, while making them happy, grant the necessary blessing to the patient and martyr-nurturing people and pay attention to their problems.

In conclusion, the deputy from Zahedan then asked the president, the minister of energy, and related officials to pay attention to the problem of drinking water in the city of Zahedan, with a population of 500,000 people, the operation of the railroad to Zahedan, natural gas pipelines to the province, and an increase in the salary of government employees, given the deprivation in the region.

Yavar Salehi, Deputy From Izeh

The next speaker was Salehi from Izeh. [passage omitted on anti-U.S., Israel, other similar comments] Under conditions that in our country, after the victory of the Islamic revolution until prior to the first Five-Year Plan, despite the imposed war, large dams were built and put into operation, in the first six months of this year alone, two large dams were inaugurated; another two dams will be put into operation by the end of the year; and work on 18 dams continues.

He added: With the establishment of 20 power plants and providing electricity for more than 11,000 villages and several cities, hundreds of thousands of km of main and secondary roads, the establishment of hundreds of colleges, the cultivation of millions of hectares of land, the establishment of millions of telephone lines and natural gas pipeline connections; Oh, enemies of the Islamic revolution, does all of this show the economic weakness of the people and the Government of Iran? Salehi continued: If sometimes in the Majles or the press there is criticism of the government, it is not meant that we have problems. Rather, it means that the problem is related to the completion, kind, quality, and speed of the work. You must know that the Majles, the government, and the nation are able arms that have been and are in the service of the religious guardian, and there is not the slightest disruption in this obedience, and no power will be able to have the slightest effect on the will of this people.

Then, referring to the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget, the speaker pointed out: In regards to Note 25, by expert attention and examination and seeing to figures and numbers, my dear colleagues will note that 35,000 tomans in energy subsidy is given to every well-to-do family per month, whereas the low-income

urban families receive 3,500 tomans, that is, 1/10, and in the villages, 1,500 tomans, that is, less than 1/17.

Last year also, I announced that the single foreign currency rate and modifications required more examination and the opportunists should not be allowed to take undue advantage of the situation. At the present, the president must order the establishment of general meetings in the presence of other committed and concerned experts, so that with more cooperation the problems are examined and resolved.

The deputy from Izeh then, in regards to the problems of his constituency, mentioned discrimination concerning the budget distribution and said: Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani should use more care in carrying out his responsibilities and preventing such discrimination. Some of the deputy ministers also, unfortunately, are not an exception to this rule.

He then asked for the cooperation and assistance of the minister of interior to investigate the office of the Governor of Izeh, the minister of agriculture concerning providing chemical fertilizers for the villagers, the ministers of jihad and industries concerning the use of the potential of the city, and the Foundation of Self-Sacrificers for attending to the situation of the self-sacrificers.

Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, Deputy From Tehran

The third pre-agenda speaker of the M ilis yesterday was Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, the deputy from Tehran, who mentioned the cultural, economic, scientific, educational, and political gains of the revolution under the leadership of the late Imam and the grand leader, which were published in yesterday's issue.

Jamshid Qanbari, Deputy From Mianeh

The last pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majlis yesterday was Qanbari, from Mianeh, who referred to the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget and the Second Plan in regards to Note 25 and said: In regards to the increase in the price of consumer energy, such as gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products, it is expected that this task will be carried out such that this increase is collected from the upper 20 percent of the consumers of energy in order to prevent the expected pressures from being imposed on the vulnerable stratum, employees and retired persons.

He added: The government is expected to present to the Majlis the bill of support for retired persons as soon as possible, as it is the wish of the majority of the Majlis deputies. In connection with housing, a great deal of projections have been made. But, unfortunately, considering that 50 percent of the income of urban dwellers and 25 percent of that of villagers and provincial dwellers is spent on housing, this important matter has not received the attention that it deserves in the Second Plan and the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget. Every year, we ratify banking facilities in order for the banks to help the builders of individual homes by granting loans. But, unfortunately, the banks do not do so. The banks look at their problems only from an economic standpoint. They pay attention to loans with higher profits. Under various pretexts, they grant loans to retired persons, employees, and the vulnerable stratum, for which the banking facilities are ratified by the Majlis, and by establishing dummy companies allocate all or a major part of these funds to themselves, and the bank takes the profit. Continuing, the deputy from Mianeh reminded the minister of housing and urban development about the preparation of new townships and cities and the funds collected from the people for this purpose.

Question of Deputy of Malayer to the Minister of Industries

Mr. Norozi, the deputy of Malayer, asked about the establishment of industrial townships in the region and in his question to the minister of industries said: It has been one or two years since we have regularly pursued the matter. Last year, about 16 months ago, when the president came to the province of Hamadan, the minister of industries also accompanied him and witnessed the situation of the province. [sentence as published] The issue is that the people's problems have not been solved.

He added: The province of Hamadan is 20,000 square km, with a population of 1.76 million in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. The city of Malayer, with a population of 310,000, is the second largest city in the province of Hamadan. This city is at the main crossroads of the country. The main highways of the country pass through it. Oil pipelines pass through it. But, unfortunately, despite all these characteristics, we see that the rate of inflation is very high there. In addition to a great deal of migration from this region, not even small steps have been taken compared to other provinces.

Norozi continued: Our basic need was to solve the problem somehow. The situation is the same in other cities of Hamadan Province.

Response of the Minister of Industries

Then Engineer Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries, responded: This question was raised earlier in the Industries and Mines Committee. The Industrial Townships Company is a government company, which was ratified in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] by the honorable Majlis and gradually has established subsidiary companies in the provinces. One of the subsidiary companies is the Hamadan Township Company, which was registered on 18/11/1364 [7 February 1985] and began operating in late 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986].

He added: The management of this company is the responsibility of Engineer Mashayekhi, who is a graduate of Sharif Industrial College and was imprisoned prior to the revolution. The province of Hamadan, due to its nature, is an agricultural and animal husbandry province. The dominant feature of this province is agriculture and not industry. For this reason, both in the past and

present we have not had significant industrial growth, as in the provinces of Esfahan, Arak, etc. Despite this issue, the Township Company has started four townships in the region, one of which is the Malayer Township, and two others are being studied.

A total of 180 pieces of land in the province, with an area of 92 hectares, have so far been transferred to applicants, and despite the fact that there is the developmental budget for the creation of these townships, we get money from the industry applicants and create the townships. More than 240 million tomans of the people's own money have so far been spent in the townships.

Engineer Ne'matzadeh then said regarding the Malayer Township: Since 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], finding a location for this township started, and documentation is available regarding this matter. I will present all the records and correspondence to the speaker of the Majles so that he can make it available to the gentlemen in whatever form he determines to be proper.

Pointing out that at the end of last year Malayer Township was approved by the Cabinet, he said: Since this year, the design operations of this township were started. What has been accomplished consists of establishing boundaries; acquiring official documents in the government's name; acquiring the agreement of various organizations, such as the Environmental Protection Organization and Tribal Affairs; official expertise to map the land; payment of the funds for the land;, preservation of topographical maps, providing zero phase, and digging two wells.

He said: So far, we have no applicant for this township and, as was said, we must get money from applicants to create the township, and all these expenditures have come from the company's resources. Essentially, Malayer, because of its history, is not an industrial city.

Engineer Ne'matzadeh continued: Unfortunately, we have not yet obtained the land deed. After the duties of [the Ministries of] Jihad and Agriculture were separated and differences of opinion concerning the land occurred, unfortunately, we were not able to get deeds for any of our townships, and there are about 80 townships that are waiting to receive deeds. If the deeds are not issued, the applicants will not be willing to invest there, because the first step that they must take is to get funds from banks, and banks, despite the approval of the government to grant loans without the deed, have not been willing to do so. We have dozens of projects in this province for which even the machinery and necessary foreign currency have been provided, but the applicants are not willing to participate. Considering the modification policies and the significant increase in the cost of building and fundamental affairs in industrial townships, particularly the cost of water, electricity, and other facilities, if the government does not give support, a work stoppage will certainly be faced in deprived areas. Fortunately, the Industry Planning Council examined this issue for the Second Plan and proposed a special note to the government which, unfortunately, was not included in the plan and budget proposal, and in the end, there was no time to pay attention to it.

Considering the significant increase in costs, if the government does not support it, the building of townships will cost a great deal, and the applicants are not interested in giving money.

Ne'matzadeh continued: During the First Five-Year Plan, with the projection of these few months, we estimate that we have spent 110 billion rials[Rls] in the industrial township throughout the country, which has all been with applicants' money. If we continue this trend in the Second Plan, it will be about Rls350 billion. We request that the Majles help ensure that at least 50 percent of it will be ratified. Otherwise, not only will we be unable to advance the work for the Malayer Township, but we will also face a significant recession in other townships as well.

Mr. Noruzi's Rebuttal

Speaking once again, 'Abdollah Noruzi said: Regarding the fact that Mr. Ne'matzadeh said that our region is agricultural, essentially, we can have an expansive agricultural industry. Of course, the climate of the region is favorable, but it is not a large area, and the climatic conditions are prohibitive, You tell us, What have you done in conversion industries? Mr. Engineer, you have 185 industrial townships, such as the industrial townships of Alborz, Kaveh, and Tehran, and the one you are building in 'Aliabad. In accordance with Note 52 of the First Plan, you are not supposed to develop Tehran, and you must not establish industrial townships in prosperous and developed centers.

He then said: You established nine industrial townships in the province of Gilan, but do you have one in Malayer? In the report that you gave to the Majles last year about your accomplishments, you say that you are proud to have created employment to 4.5 percent of the national population. You consider this a strength, but here you present the issue differently. In the province of Hamadan, with a population of 1.8 million, you only created 20,000 jobs in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. In the province of Semnan, [you created] 64,000 [jobs] and in Yazd, 44,000. We congratulate the managers of those regions who were able, on the basis of the regulations and thinking, to create jobs. I have nothing to say about the religious devotion of your manager in our own region, but he was incompetent, and I say this frankly. Otherwise, the grounds were prepared for him. My complaint to you and your colleagues is that when you provide statistics that Zanjan had used 10 percent of the total 13 percent of the national foreign currency, of which you invested $7 billion in the First Plan, it has not reached the ears of your manager in the province, that he be

asked, Mr. Manager, what have you done in the province with all that population? You must have strong supervision in these affairs.

The deputy from Malayer then added: The law of industrial townships was ratified in 1369. But you started in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], when the foreign currency reached the bottom of the pot. Naturally, no one will any longer come to invest with a 200-toman rate of foreign currency exchange. Even if I were you, I would not have an answer to this problem. You have been a minister for five years. Your manager has been in that position since 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], from the beginning of the industrial township companies. You should search and reform the mismanagement in your system.

He continued: You yourself (Mr. Minister), last year, even when we complained, during your visit to the province, you went ahead and attended a seminar. We did not attend. You went to the province. In front of our governor-general, you grabbed the ear of the director general of industries and said, Mr. Governor-General, if from now on he is slow, take him by the ear and send him out of the province, because you changed him later, upon my request, due to his weak management. If he was a successful manager, why did you change him? You yourself concluded that he was an unsuccessful manager. You must make up for the past. The people of the province of Hamadan are all religious and rooted. The second trench of the war front in the west and the south was Hamadan. In the presidential elections why did we see small numbers? The interpretation of the political deputy of the Office of the Governor-General and the Central Information Office was that it was all due to the 12- and 13-percent unemployment rate that exists in the cities. You say Malayer is an agricultural center. There are 1,000 brick kilns in Malayer, because a sound industry does not exist there. On the one hand, they have turned the environment to hell, and on the other hand, they convert the most suitable agricultural soil into bricks. Do you not feel sorry for the soil?

Rebuttal of the Minister of Industries

Engineer Ne'matzadeh said in rebuttal: Out of 185 townships that have been approved, more than 40 townships were approved this year by the Cabinet. We are transferring land in about 105 townships. In the rest, they are either being designed or we still have land problems. The major work that has been done in the industrial townships throughout the country has been during the First Five-Year Plan, the statistics and figures for which are available. From 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], essentially because of the war conditions, especially in the western provinces, there was no inclination for investment. Even our incomplete projects were stagnant. It has been in the past few years that work has started. Hence, when it is said that we must make up for the past, it is only for these past two or three years.

In regards to changing the director general of industries, the minister of industries said: Because we saw that he has many problems, that there is attrition, we changed the director. God willing, the new director, who is a competent and committed individual, will be supported, as he must be. Not just him, but if I go there, I cannot build the Malayer Township without money. This money must come from two sources, 1) from the people themselves or 2) from public sources. So far, no public sources exist. Among the people, we have no applicants. We must see what the main problem is. In my opinion, the main problem is the lack of very willing applicants to invest in Malayer. We must create this atmosphere more so that, God willing, the situation will improve there. Even these brick kilns are not ready to go to one location to create a proper factory with a good investment and in accordance with environmental and technical interests. Even if we remove them, we must do something to promote an industrial culture there.

The minister of industries also added: In Gilan and Mazandaran, in accordance with government ratifications, we had a prohibition on industries. Last year, this prohibition was removed and it was said that townships should be created based on agricultural issues and the land there. In Gilan, except for in the townships, no one can establish a factory. Essentially, it is not true that since there is no township, there is no industry. A township is created because of a demand for industry, and no money has been projected for it in the law.

In conclusion, Engineer Ne'matzadeh said: The Ministry of Industry has had no more than $4 billion in foreign currency investment in the First Plan, and $7 billion for the whole industry sector includes petrochemical, heavy industries, etc. Hence, we must find a solution as to how to create a climate for investment.

In conclusion, 'Abdollah Noruzi was satisfied with the response of the minister of industries.

Ratifications

Proposal To Amend Article 34 on the Protection and Use of Forests and Pastures

This legislative article, which was ratified in 1354 [21 March 1975-20 March 1976], was amended with the proposal offered and the ratification of the honorable deputies.

With the ratification of the Majles, the forest and plateau lands of the north and plains and national pastures of the country, which from the end of 1365 [20 March 1987] have been converted to orchards or irrigated farming without legal permits or have been used for animal husbandry production projects and other nonagricultural purposes, upon the determination of a special committee, shall be transferred with regard to the determined rental fee.

Based on the single article, the amending proposal by the above-mentioned committee, composed of the representatives of the [Ministries of] Construction Jihad and Agriculture, the National Forests and Pastures Organization, and the Office of the Governor, is under the charge of the Construction Jihad.

In this single article, it has been emphasized that national resource lands taken possession of after the above-mentioned date shall be relinquished unconditionally.

The procedure for the announcement to and notification of occupiers to go to the committee and arrange for the transfer and determine the rent fee for the time of use and supervision over the operation of the tenants shall be based on bylaws to be prepared by the Ministry of Construction Jihad and ratified by the Cabinet.

According to this proposal, Article 34 of the law on the protection and use of forests and pastures ratified on 14/03/1354 [4 June 1975] shall be amended as follows, and four notes, 3, 4, 5, and 6, shall be attached to it.

Based on Note 3 attached to this article, regarding lands stated in this article, which technically have not been approved by the above-mentioned committee, those [persons] subject to this law who do not appear to determine the situation of the lands, within the set period, shall be immediately investigated by the proper judicial authorities and evicted.

As stipulated in note 3, disposable agricultural land shall be placed at the disposal of the Land Transfer Committee to be transferred, on a priority basis, to qualified self-sacrificers and other individuals.

Based on Note 4 of this single article, if the water used in such lands lacks a user permit, the regional water organizations will take steps to issue permits for the user in accordance with their current regulations.

In Note 5 of this article, also, the Ministry of Construction Jihad is granted permission, for the purpose of attracting the people's participation in reclaiming deserts, by preparing projects and providing necessary resources, to transfer desert lands with potential, within the framework of ratified tree planting, bush planting, pasture maintenance, and aquifer projects, to actual and legal persons, with priority given to self-sacrificers.

In accordance with Note 6, all revenues gained from the implementation of this law shall be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Construction Jihad to be used exclusively for the implementation of this law and revitalization and reform of pastures, forests, fundamental affairs, and aquifers of related regions.

On the Margins of the Majles

Investigation and Inquiry Concerning the National Steel Company

The results of the investigation and inquiry by the Majles into the National Iranian Steel Company will be announced in two months.

This was announced by Dr. Kamran, the deputy of the people of Esfahan and head of the investigation and inquiry group of the Majles, concerning the National Steel Company in an interview with the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT.

He added: The 11-member group appointed by the Majles has so far made numerous visits to the subsidiary units of the Steel Company, such as Mobarakeh Steel Complex, Esfahan Steel Mill, Ahvaz Steel, Yazd Alloy Steel, and mines located in Yazd, Kerman, Khorasan, Gilan and Mazandaran, and obtained the necessary information from related sources, a report on which will be presented to the Majles after the time allotted.

He continued: The major issues in question concerning these companies are the issue of contracts, manpower, and profits and losses of these units, about which the committee has so far gained desirable results.

Dr. Kamran also said: Considering the results that have been obtained, it seems that the steel development project in Azarbaijan and Khorasan is not a positive step.

He expressed hope that, considering the time remaining, the group would be able to present a comprehensive report to the Hezbollah nation and that the Majles would act on the basis of its legal duties.

Concluding, Dr. Kamran added: So far, in carrying out this assignment by the Majles, we have had many obstacles and problems, and so far we have shown restraint. However, should this trend continue, we will have to act differently.

Upcoming Tehran City Hall Exhibition in the Majles

According to a report by our parliamentary correspondent, in an effort to attract the attention of the Majles deputies, the Tehran City Hall will hold an exhibition in the Majles. This exhibition will include the activities of deputy offices and organizations under the City Hall, including the creation of green space, the creation of parks, samples of drawings situated in various squares of Tehran, and other services. The exhibition will take the form of several placards and displays next week in one of the corridors of the Majles.

* 12 Jan

94LA0066A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Jan 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Shahr-e Babak, Lahijan, Kashan, and Maragheh gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the proceedings and speeches.

Majles Highlights

In his speech, Mr. Soleymani, deputy from Shahr-e Babak, called for reform of the nation's tax system. He said: The collection of taxes should be such that those who have greater incomes will pay more taxes.

Mr. Ya'qubi, deputy from Lahijan, called for greater attention to the guidance from the exalted leader in studying the Second Five-Year Plan and the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] National Budget.

Legislation

Payam-e Nur University was authorized to spend 75 percent of its current and allocated credits and 35 percent of its development credits outside of public accounts.

The bill on the Supreme Traffic Coordination Council for the Nation's Cities, which seeks to implement comprehensive traffic policies, was approved by the Majles.

In the debate on the Motion on the Procedures To Implement Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution, Mr. Kuhkan said: We already have many instances of violations from the Tehran mayor's office, especially the mayor of Tehran. We invited him to come to the commission and he did not answer and has not been willing to answer written queries.

Manuar Soleymani, Deputy From Shahr-e Babak

Who don't some of the ministers supervise their ministerial organizations in a continuous and worthy manner?

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Soleymani, deputy from Shahr-e Babak. He offered congratulations and felicitations on the assignment of the noble Prophet's (peace be upon him) mission. During his speech he said: According to the exalted leader, the people of the world hunger for the prophetic mission of the noble Prophet (peace be upon him) and the teachings of the glorious Koran. Therefore the followers of the life-giving orthodoxy of Islam must awaken from their sleep of neglect and liberate themselves from the chains of Americanized Islam and imperialist competition and slavery. They must rise up in struggle for their own glory and the grandeur of Islam and seek to liberate humanity from the clutches of the imperialists, bullies and perpetrators of ignorance. The existing discord and violence is painful to the blessed heart of the glorious Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him), and it draws everyone into the increasing oppression that prevails in apparently civilized nations.

Continuing, he said: As we are about to study the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] National Budget Bill, I would like to say the following things: Despite all the enemy's sabotage, trickery and violence, and the excessive naivete and limitations of some friends, planners and economic experts, praise God important infrastructure projects have been carried out or are being carried out in the country, which have disrupted the sleep of our enemies. Despite this, with more logical planning and with better use of resources and credits spent, we could have better results and benefits.

The speaker also said: For exact achievement of the guidance from the exalted leader in the areas of social justice and dealing with the condition of the oppressed, the deprived and those who have sacrificed, the necessary policies must be approved by the Majles and implemented by the government.

He then added: We all believe in economic development and implementing infrastructure projects and affairs, but this must not make us indifferent to the livelihoods of society's low-income classes, because this indifference would be in conflict with religious criteria and the principles of managing a country.

Mr. Soleymani discussed the collection of taxes from those who have incomes based on the idea that whoever has the biggest roof catches the most snow. Tax-collecting policies and laws must be amended in such a way that those who have enormous incomes cannot evade paying lawful and designated taxes.

The deputy from Shahr-e Babak discussed the fact that today one of the Islamic intellectuals, one of the most esteemed companions of late Imam and a comrade-in-arms of the exalted leader is at the head of the government and a leader in the nation's executive affairs. He said: Membership in this government is naturally a source of pride for the ministers, and they are involved in the performance of religious and national duties. Why is that some of the ministers pay no heed to their positions and to the sensitive and critical position of the respected president of the republic, and do not supervise their ministerial organizations continuously and in a worthy manner?

At the end of his speech the speaker discussed the problems in his electoral district, and he asked the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, the Ministry of Guidance, the Ministry of Energy and others to look into these problems.

Bahram Ya'qubi, Deputy From Lahijan and Siyahkal

The supervisory and investigative sectors must have complete knowledge of the performance of the managers and officials.

Ya'qubi, deputy from Lahijan, was the second pre-agenda speaker. During his speech he discussed the Second Five-Year Plan and the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget. He said: Fortunately the provisions of the aforementioned programs are aimed at the general policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and based on the policies approved by the late Imam (peace be upon him) and the 12-article guidance from the exalted leader. His excellency directed the attention of the respected officials to coordinating the various economic, monetary, educational, political, and social sectors and making them conform to the rich theology of Islam, and to designing and announcing the basic policies that govern the nation's planning around the intended areas of focus.

He added: Those implementing the plan must move in this direction. I recommend that the aforementioned policies and areas of focus be implemented as follows:

(1) Now that conditions are suitable for political participation by students, universities and centers of higher education, his excellency's 12-article guidance must be studied and discussed in academic and political terms by these dear ones and their organizations.

(2) The media and the Voice and Vision organization must have meetings to discuss the strategic policies his excellency is promoting, and the nuances of the principles prevailing in the nation's programs and projects must be explained to the proud people of Iran.

(3) In view of the issue of proper and continuous supervision and the implementation of projects, it is best in this regard if the necessary studies take place and if the supervisory and investigative sectors, along with the people, always remain vigilant and fully knowledgeable of the performance of the managers and officials.

(4) Measures must be taken so that executive managers and officials will also pay attention to the nation's strategic policies and will realize that goals must be achieved and with what procedures and mechanisms.

Therefore, taking into account the guidance from the exalted leader to preserve the values of the Islamic revolution, with a proper view of the future and making appropriate use of management capability and the wealth of committed experts and specialists, we must activate the nation's resources in such a way that the real principles of the Islamic revolution will remain firm and luminous. This in itself will be a powerful blow against America.

Continuing his talk, Ya'qubi discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: The respected president of the republic knows that the province of Gilan has thick forests, fruitful plains, a bountiful sea, and pious and hard-working people. The important thing is that these talents and potentials be activated. Therefore, this province also requests special attention from that great man and asks that its credit and budget problems be solved.

I, therefore, invite your excellency to come to the area, especially to Lahijan and Siyahkal. This region's coastal dwellers, who are suffering from rising sea water and have had their farms destroyed, are in need of low-cost and rapid expert services to stop the advance of the sea water.

He added: The creation of industrial companies, the creation of conversion factories and the needed industries would completely change the face of the region. Lahijan and Siyahkal have potential in the areas of water, soil, mining, rice, silk cultivation, tea industries, paper, wood and the creation of industrial animal husbandry. It is expected that the government will give special attention to this region in its overall development plan.

The officials know that we have hard-working and determined people in the rice paddies and tea orchards of Lahijan and Siyahkal, who work hard to achieve the nation's economic independence. They are faced with a shortage of agricultural implements and high costs of machinery, fertilizer and pesticides, yet officials do not do the necessary planning and coordination in time. The high costs of producing crops and the failure to pay loans on time have created problems for the cycle or process of cultivating strategic agricultural crops. Nevertheless, I thank the high-ranking official of the Ministry of Agriculture for solving problems.

The deputy from Lahijan then emphasized: From an expert point of view, I am vigorously opposed to the privatization of tea, and I note my willingness to hold expert and technical talks with the competent authorities on this subject. In addition to its natural resources this region has pious, educated and specialist manpower and it is expected that managers and officials will bring resources into play with their management and activate potential.

He added: Definitely the goals of officials should be to create employment for youth and to give attention to training, morality, education, sports and sound recreation.

He added: I thank and praise the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade for its help and cooperation in agreeing to assign the land to create an industrial city in the region; for constructiong an asphalt factory, for providing electrical power and for asphalting the roads in the area; the Ministry of Petroleum for the gas delivery project in Siyahkal; the Ministry of Energy for repairing the Lahijan drinking water system and for dredging the river, for which the necessary authorization was issued in writing to me with the provision of the needed credits after numerous meetings and expert discussions.

Concluding he said: With the help of God in the near future the people of this area will have the related benefits. It is hoped that the respected officials will take

the steps necessary to build a bridge and a beltway for the municipality of Lahijan to reduce the traffic load and also to make Siyahkal into a municipality, which is a rightful demand of the people of this area.

Mahmud Jamali, Deputy From Kashan

The minister of commerce's basic responsibility should be in the matter of exports.

The next speaker was Mahmud Jamali, deputy from Kashan. He regarded society's happiness and health to be dependent on full adherence to the vice-regent and full implementation of the law. He said: Today the Islamic Republic of Iran is the strongest, most populist, and freest Iran in history.

Today the world faces a severe economic crisis. Many economists believe it is the most complex world crisis ever. In my view it is the result of the division of the world into the two polarities of poor and rich nations. Many of our nation's problems today are caused by this very crisis.

Fortunately, with the insight of the president of the republic and that of the Council of Ministers and the Majles, under certain historic circumstances the First Five-Year Plan was successfully completed. According to official statistics published by the Ministry of Financial Affairs, the average growth of GNP [gross national product] during the Five-Year Plan was 7.7 percent. More important, during the plan added value in the agricultural sector grew from 4,000 billion rials[Rls] to Rls16,000 billion. Basic steps have been taken in the areas of economic adjustment and unification of the foreign exchange rate, and the path has been cleared for development and investment.

He added: I believe that one of the reasons for the sudden collapse in the price of oil is to prevent implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan, because they saw that during the First Five-Year Plan we achieved great goals in various areas such as dam-building projects, electrical power plants, communications industries, mother industries, consumer industries, and other things.

He added: In the agricultural sector we are bordering on self-sufficiency in many products. Even if we solve the problem of bread embezzling, we are still self-sufficient today in the production of wheat. This is one of the longstanding wishes of all Iranians.

The deputy from Kashan then continued: Since the beginning of the revolution the Islamic Republic of Iran has raised the public standard of living, especially for the deprived rural classes, and even changed their lives in such a way that today more than 80 percent of our rural people have water, electricity, asphalt roads, and sometimes communications systems. Yet before the revolution, with more income and a population half the size of today's, no more than 10 percent of them had these things. We must, therefore, accept that an end to the plans would certainly bring on a crisis, and even a restart of the economy would itself entail enormous expenses.

Jamali then said: We have two paths before us. One way is to borrow money. This path might solve our problems for a few days, but it would certainly lead the country into dangerous political dependence. The other way is to reverse the flow of investment, which so far has been going abroad from Iran. We must believe that we can do this.

Noting that the nation had $500 million in steel exports this year, he said: It is my understanding that this figure will increase to more than $1 billion this year. The Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Heavy Industries also have this same possibility. There is no reason for a nation that does most of its investing with a 7-toman dollar and whose fuel and consumer energy are almost free cannot compete with countries who pay several times as much as we do for those expenses. From now on the ministers must include export items in their notes of mutual understanding. The minister of commerce's basic responsibility should be in the matter of exports. It is all very well to create expositions for exports, but we must solve the problem of foreign exchange capital for exports.

Even if it becomes necessary for the government to recommend that we subsidize exports, a determination will have to be made about transferring government industries to the people.

Continuing his remarks, Jamali said that one foreign exchange resource, which has been ignored is technical and engineering services in contracting companies outside the country. He said: With the experience we have in this matter, I say that we can compete even in other countries, especially in Muslim countries, with foreign companies. In a word, all us deputies and the government and public bodies must think about drawing money and investment into the country.

He said that we have solved the housing problem in Kashan for the next 30 years and asked the minister of the interior to help solve the problem of the people of Aran Bidgol.

Seyyed Mostafa Seyyed-Hashemi, Deputy From Maragheh

The tie between the people and the government is a permanent form of capital and a peerless weapon.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Seyyed-Hashemi, deputy from Maragheh. During his speech he said: If the skies of this land have not been without stars in all the years since the dawn of the revolution, it is because of the efforts of those hard-working people whose toil, struggle, honor, and enthusiasm have scattered the dark clouds and it is because of those whose mercy has driven away the rain. You have seen and I have seen that there has been much

rain, and we have walked among the flowers of love which are the glory and dignity of Islam and this land. He then added:

I thank Almighty God for giving the revolutionary people of my electoral precinct the opportunity to welcome with all their being and from the bottom of their hearts with love and words the respected deputy speaker of the Majles and the exalted leader's representative on the Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Hasan Rowhani, at a gathering of the martyr-nurturing people of Maragheh and 'Ajab Shir, where he gave a passionate speech and offered his blessed and spirited guidance.

They also welcomed the minister of roads and transportation, who opened the Sahand airport, inaugurated air service to this region and presented air service to the people of the municipalities of Nekab, Bukan, Mian-e Doab, and other cities in the region. They welcomed the respected minister of post and telegraph to open the 30,000-number digital telephone center in this municipality, and the minister of energy, who had come to inspect the important 'Alavian Dam project and open the Maragheh District 2 water delivery line.

These hard-working and committed figures, who go with and obey the leader and the ever-alert companions of the beloved president of the republic, took the trouble to come to the municipality of Maragheh along with a group of Majles deputies, the governor-general of East Azerbaijan and other dear ones, and humbly paid tribute to the people of Maragheh's participation in the construction of Sahand Airport and Martyr Timuri school, and presented them to the people. Let the value of grace and praise always be understood in this sacred land.

The deputy from Maragheh also thanked and praised the people of his electoral district, who with their unprecedented turnout welcomed the servants of the sacred Islamic government. In conclusion he said: The tie between the people and the government was and will be a permanent form of capital, a peerless weapon and great support for the revolution.

Legislation

Motion To Append a Paragraph to Note 15 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law

The first item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Accounting Court Commission concerning the Motion to Append a Paragraph to Note 15 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law, the general form of which was approved. Under this motion, Payam-e Nur University was authorized to spend 75 percent of its current and allocated credits and 35 percent of its development credits outside of public accounts.

Motion To Explain Paragraphs B and J, Note 49 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Law

The report from the Plan and Budget Commission concerning the Motion To Explain Paragraphs B and J, Note 49 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Law was the second item on the agenda, and the commission's view was approved by the deputies.

Topic of Explanation

Paragraph A: In view of the fact that the units affiliated with the Iran Development, New Construction and Industries Organization and the Iran National Steel Company are very extensive and large, and that in addition to the sale of the stocks of the companies, it is also necessary to sell separately their assets such as land, buildings, machinery and other things, will the sale of these assets be included under the provisions of the note or not?

Paragraph B: In view of the provisions of Note 49 and the heavy volume of investment, which must be made in the projects mentioned, will the sale of the assets and shares mentioned in the above note be taxable or not?

Commission's View

Because instances such as this are clear and without ambiguity, there is no need for explanation. The wording of the question really suggests a violation of the law on company shares and property, machinery, assets and other things, and suggests voiding the shares of the aforementioned companies. The shares have no value without the assets, property, and machinery.

Paragraph B derives its meaning from Paragraph A. Therefore, in the view of the commission, profits and shares do not include property, assets, and machinery.

Bill To Establish a Supreme Traffic Coordination Council for the Nation's Cities

The third item on the agenda was the second report from the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Establish a Supreme Traffic Coordination Council for the Nation's Cities, the details of which were approved.

Article 1: To implement comprehensive and coordinated traffic policies, to establish the necessary policy and improve the general office for transportation affairs such as design, planning, organization, coordination, guidance, supervision and traffic police in the cities, the Supreme Traffic Coordination Council for the Nation's Cities, referred to hereafter as the "Supreme Council," is to be formed with the following membership:

(1) The minister of the interior (chief of the council), 2) the minister of roads and transportation, 3) the minister of housing and urban construction, 4) the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, 5) the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, 6) the chief of the Environmental Protection Organization, and 7) the commander of the police force.

Article 2: The Ministry of the Interior will be in charge of the Supreme Council's secretariat.

Article 3: A province traffic coordination council will be formed with the governor-general or his deputy for development as its chief, to be attended by the general managers from the ministries and organizations who are members of the Supreme Council in the province and the commander of the police district.

Note: The secretariats for the province traffic coordination councils will be located in the offices of the governors-general.

Article 4: The measures enacted by the Supreme Traffic Coordination Council for the Nation's Cities, which must be within the framework of the nation's laws and regulations, will be binding on all ministries, institutions, government organizations, bodies and public and private institutions.

Article 5: The duties of the province traffic coordination council, like those of the secretariat of the Supreme Council and the province traffic coordination council, will be based on guidelines to be prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 6: All conflicting laws and regulations are void and without effect as of the date of this law's enactment.

Note: The measures enacted by the Supreme Traffic Coordination Council for the Nation's Cities must not be in conflict with the measures enacted by the Supreme Urban Construction and Architecture Council and the Supreme National Transportation Coordination Council.

Motion on the Procedures To Implement Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution

The next item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Domestic Guidelines Commission concerning the Motion on the Procedures To Implement Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution, the general form of which was approved by the Majles.

Dr. Shibani gave a short speech explaining this motion. He said: A group of deputies made a motion concerning the work of the Constitution Articles 88 and 90 Commission, like the research and investigation report, to which no attention should be paid. The commission has therefore made changes to the motion so that the work on reports such as this will be more effective. If you want the Article 90 Commission to work well and have serious attention paid to its reports, and to have it pursued when officials commit violations, you must approve this motion.

Mohsen Kuhkan spoke concerning this motion. He said: Some friends have come to believe that this is a motion to amend a law pertaining to Article 90. It was felt that the existing regulations are not an answer to the rightful and lawful criticisms from the deputies or the complaints they are making in accordance with Article 90 concerning the way one of the three government powers is working. We were faced with a series of difficulties, one of which was that every time an official appeared, was invited to appear or was written to, that individual failed to answer within the legally allotted time and did not respond to the invitation.

He then said: We already have many instances of violations from the Tehran mayor's office, especially the mayor of Tehran, who has committed violations. We invited him to come to the commission and he did not answer and has not been willing to answer written queries. He therefore definitely must be dealt with legally. Of course, it is necessary to mention that there was nothing special about the motion we gave and it does not differ with the current Article 90 Law.

Speaking in support of the motion, Movahed-Saveji said: The Guidelines Commission made changes to the motion, and the reasons for the changes were proper and appropriate. Of course, the general form of it is now before the Majles and it will be possible to change it in the second consultation.

Majles Notes

Research and Investigation on Trips Abroad

Research and Investigation on Trips Abroad by organizations is under way in the Majles and when it is completed the conclusions reached will be reported to the people.

Mr. Sobhani, a member of the Foreign Policy Commission, announced this in an interview with RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent. Explaining, he said: Early in the life of the Fourth Majles the members of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission met with the exalted leader. The issue of putting limitations on trips abroad was raised by this commission and this was welcomed and approved by His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. He said: In addition to the fact that trips abroad must be limited, trips by other government organizations, which are unnecessary, must also be limited and controlled. Continuing, Mr. Sobhani-Niya added: Following this guidance from the exalted leader, the issue of research and investigation on trips abroad was raised, and to implement this guidance from the exalted leader, in the Fourth Majles the Majles Speaker's Council stopped trips abroad except in special and necessary cases.

He emphasized: Under current circumstances when the nation is faced with a shortage of financial resources and economy must be exercised in all matters, it is necessary to stop unaccounted trips by government organizations.

In conclusion he said: It has been three months since work on this task began, and after the reports are compiled their definitive results will be announced in the Majles.

Islamic Republic of Iran and GATT

The results of Iran's membership in GATT were announced in the parliamentary correspondent's interview with Engineer Jalali, chief of the Majles Agriculture Commission.

He said: GATT is a treaty signed by 117 nations in the world for trade and tariffs pertaining to the world's trade and agriculture.

He added: The nations who have signed this treaty must adhere completely to its regulations. Continuing, the chief of the Majles Agriculture Commission added: This treaty will hurt nations that import agricultural goods, especially the Third World nations, because tariffs pertaining to imports will be faced with limitations for this country of ours, but exporter nations, with the gradual elimination of subsidies on agricultural goods, will gradually increase the prices on their goods.

He added: If it is decided that Iran should become a signatory to this treaty after the necessary expert studies are completed, the government will submit a bill to the Majles for approval.

Concerning the consequences of Iran's membership in this treaty, Engineer Jalali said: Because we import basic goods and have not yet achieved self-sufficiency, there is currently no advantage to Iran becoming a party to this treaty. However, in view of the fact that we hope to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency and to be able to export agricultural goods, it may be good for the country.

Concluding, the chief of the Agriculture Commission added: The GATT treaty is important for us in that we can give serious attention in our policy and planning to the procurement of food and to agricultural growth. With inspiration from the guidance of the late Imam, who said that agricultural self-sufficiency is the beginning of self-sufficiency in other areas, we hope, in view of this guidance and with the exalted leader's approval, that we will be able to establish a suitable place for the agricultural sector in the Second Five-Year Plan in the announced policies of the Second Five-Year Plan, which pay special attention to the agricultural and production sectors.

*** 16 Jan**

94LA0068A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
17 Jan 94 pp 5, 4

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from Astara, Tehran, Larestan and Behbehan gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Majles Speaker's Remarks [passages Omitted on Islam and anti-West comments]

Weekly Agenda of Majles Commissions

The most important agenda items for the meetings of the Majles commissions this week are as follows:

Guidance, Islamic Art and Mass Communications Commission

Report from the chief of the Cultural Heritage Organization, Engineer Kazerani

Industries and Mines Commission

Study of the problems of the industries, mines, and agricultural organizations under the Foundation for the Oppressed and Injured War Veterans

Study of the motion to amend articles from the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Law

Housing, Urban Construction and Roads and Transportation Commission

Study of question from Mr. Yavar Salehi, deputy from Ideh, to the minister of roads and transportation

Study of the Bill To Have the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran Adhere to the International Maritime Human Life Regulations

Other Commissions

Study of the 1373 [21 March 1994 - 20 March 1995] budget bill

Commission Enactments

The most important Majles commission enactments this week are as follows:

Motion To Amend Article 1 of the Smuggler Penalties Law

This motion states: If domestic crops and products that are exported under the provisions of the Customs Levies Restoration and Commercial Profits on Raw Materials for Factory Machine Products Law enacted in 1345 [21 March 1966-20 March 1967], or are exported with an exemption to the payment of taxes and levies, are returned to the country without authorization, it will be considered smuggling. This motion has been considered in the Judicial Affairs Commission.

Bill To Amend the Obligatory Public Service Law

Based on Note 1 in the above bill, after eligible persons who are studying abroad with an educational exemption quit their studies or graduate, they must report in no more than one year to the appropriate obligatory service organization inside the country. The aforementioned bill was approved by the Councils and National Domestic Affairs Commission.

Shapur Marhaba, Deputy From Astara

Visits by officials to the deprived areas gives the people the comfort of knowing that unlike under the former regime, they are not forgotten.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Marhaba, deputy from Astara. He offered his congratulations on the birth anniversary of His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him), His Holiness 'Abbas (peace be upon him) and His Holiness 'Ali ibn Hoseyn (peace be upon him), and he commemorated Revolutionary Guard Day and Veteran's Week. In his speech he said: The educational system has changed and care must be taken that this motion is implemented successfully. One of the features of this motion is the construction of middle schools in coordination with the new system, or rebuilding and equipping the existing schools in a manner appropriate for implementing these changes.

Continuing, he said: The Gilan Province School New Construction and Equipment Organization, in cooperation with the Plan and Budget Organization, has recommended 34 billion rials[Rls] in its bill for the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget, for the completion of projects currently under way. In the proposed bill this amount was reduced to 24 billion rials. I therefore ask the responsible brothers, in view of the issues below, to stabilize the credits proposed previously by the Gilan Province School New Construction and Equipment Organization and to help them implement their educational goals in the province of Gilan, especially in the border city of Astara, which is faced with a severe shortage of classroom space.

The speaker also said: The high cost of building classroom space in Gilan compared to that of the nation's other provinces, combined with the climate situation, makes the time available for construction in the province extremely limited, and costs are thus higher there than in the nation's other provinces. Because of the verdure and fertility of the land in Gilan, it is not easy to procure and obtain property in the province. This year three municipalities have been unable to obtain suitable land for building schools.

He then offered his thanks for the trip by Mr. Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum, to the province of Gilan and the border city of Astara, and for his agreement to build gas pipelines to five border villages. He said: The visit by the respected government officials, especially at the level of the Ministry of Finance, has two effects. First, visits by officials to the deprived areas gives the people the comfort of knowing that unlike under the former regime, they are not forgotten. Second, the respected officials become familiar with the problems of the people without intermediaries and they issue the orders to solve problems on the spot.

The speaker then thanked and praised the respected registry supervisor who used committed and specialist manpower and hired revolutionary manpower and trained them, along with specialists from domestic universities and computer companies, to put into operation the nation's largest computer project at minimum expense in implementation of Note 39 of the First Five-Year Development Plan Law.

He expressed the hope that this measure would be a model for the nation's traditional organizations. He said: I ask the government and the respected Majles to give special attention to the basic and fundamental organizations such as the National Registry Organization and to provide the necessary resources and help in allocating the budget so that it will be possible for the government to plan, make policy, supervise, and ultimately to exercise authority and serve the martyr-nurturing people.

Continuing, Marhaba, deputy from Astara, added: The nation's daily increasing need for skilled and specialist manpower is being felt more during the nation's period of construction and reconstruction. Praise God the respected officials, sensing this need, are making more effort every day in this regard. The important thing is that the training of this manpower is being done in the deprived areas. An example is the establishment of the Technical and Professional Education Organization in the important border area of Astara, whose construction is under way thanks to the minister of labor. God willing, we will soon see the training of skilled local manpower in the area in various technical fields and in the technology of labor.

Continuing, he said: Because of the constant rainfall in the border municipality of Astara, about 250 homes in about five villages have been completely destroyed by soil erosion, and they are in immediate need of aid and housing. I ask officials to look into this matter quickly.

At the end of his speech he thanked the minister of roads and transportation for expediting the study to implement the transit bridge project and the railroad from Astara to Astara in Azerbaijan, and he requested a study to build the coastal road at the border city of Astara.

'Ali Ghayuri, Deputy From Tehran

As far as possible, we must accustom the people to using domestic goods.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Ghayuri, deputy from Tehran. During his talk he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and on Revolutionary Guard Day. He said: These days the budget issue is being discussed. All our people know that for various reasons we are now faced with many problems, especially the shortage of foreign exchange and the drop in the price of oil.

We must use the media to inform all our people of these things, and to the extent that we can we must try to present solutions to the people. The government and the nation must join hands so we can deliver ourselves from these pressures in the future.

He emphasized the control of imports. He said: Goods such as luxury and consumer goods we do not need must be strictly controlled and we must stop their importation. As far as possible, we must accustom the people to using domestic goods.

Worsted fabric is available in Iran for 800 to 850 tomans the meter, yet they are importing the same fabric from England at 10 times the price, even though there is not that much difference between it and the Iranian variety. Praise God, the quality of our domestic goods is rising rapidly.

Ghoyuri noted that as far as possible we must try not to import food. He said: We must also reconsider our own consumption somewhat. I have traveled to many foreign countries. Sometimes in some of the stores I would see a gentleman buying one potato or one onion. Consumption there is quite small. The foreigner gets up in the morning and before noon he has a biscuit or two with tea at the office.

The deputy from Tehran then discussed the high consumption among the people of Iran. He said: Why must some 2 million tons of bread be thrown out every year? We must train our people, especially in the consumption of electricity, so that we will be like other countries.

I have been our dear exalted leader's dinner guest a number of times. When we were about to go to another room, he himself would stand up and turn off the light in the room and then come with us. We must try to reduce our consumption, and on the other hand we must increase the nation's exports. We must try as much as possible to reduce our foreign exchange dependence. In my view, it is wrong today for us to use foreign goods if there is an Iranian equivalent.

Mohammad Hosayn Nakhbel-Foqaha'i, Deputy From Larestan

The next speaker was Nakhbel-Foqaha'i, deputy from Larestan. [passages omitted on comments about Islam and the revolution]

The speaker continued: Compare the cities and villages in the short 14-year history of the divine government and you will see this great divine blessing. Today the oppressed nations are wishing for a particle of these kinds of freedoms we have and they are fighting for them. On the one hand this progress must not be such that the imperialists become stronger and the oppressed become weaker and their situation reverts to the one prior to the revolution. The nation's officials must also be careful not to lose their benefactors. Of course the nation's independent Muslim people will never be silent about the problems that beset almost the entire country, the foreign exchange problems caused by the plot to lower the price of oil, and the enemy's political and economic plots.

He explained: Despite all the nation's problems in industries and mines, agriculture, oil and other affairs, it has advanced more than before and is bordering on self-sufficiency. They say the government is not good at business and that places showing losses are government companies, not private ones. Now that someone is taking the main profits to buy these companies, it must be asked, what class of society is buying factories from the government at a fraction of their value, or investing in industry with a 7-toman dollar?

Does the government realize that in the future the nation, the oppressed, and the government will be the humiliated captives of the owners of industries? This will be especially true when they start talking about privatizing petrochemicals, steel, and the large factories. Then we will quickly understand the implementation of the views and the power of the future owners of industries. At that time they may be able to affect the elections for president of the republic, Majles deputies, and other national officials. Clearly, the leader of the revolution will think of a solution and the president of the republic will order that long-term interest-free and low-interest loans be granted to workers, injured veterans, former prisoners, families of martyrs and others to create public corporations and to buy the aforementioned factories instead of them being bought by nonuseful individuals, and in this way social justice will be established.

The deputy from Larestan then discussed why selling at high prices is being discussed everywhere. He said: Why is it that the seller of produce and the grocer are guilty of selling at high prices if they charge too much, but if the minority class whose plundering is causing most of these problems does it, there is no mention of them in the laws for selling at high prices? Don't the brothers think they should enact a law to replace the current temporary law to nullify ownership, which has been bringing the greatest calamities for 10 years to the oppressed people? It has done nothing but transfer government lands to a minority. It has nullified a limited amount of ownership, but only in the major cities like Tehran and the province centers.

If a recommendation is made by the deputies or a government bill is presented saying that owners are free to own any amount of land provided they pay taxes to the government on any land in excess of 500 meters in the major cities and in excess of 1,000 meters in the small cities up to, for example, twice the regional price of land within the cities and industrial villages, wouldn't the government profit by collecting the taxes on billions of square meters of land every year in the country? The government is incapable of transferring land to individuals and it must create a mechanism to transfer such land matters to the people.

He discussed government supervision. He said: How long is the government going to leave some officials free to waste public funds, in such a way that it leads to boldness and abuses by wrongdoers? If the Ministry of Intelligence, along with its other important tasks, with the help of the people, were to hunt economic terrorists, plunderers of the public treasury, and bloodthirsty

hoarders, and if the judicial power were to implement God's law quickly and decisively in the above matter, would there be any place left for counterrevolutionary propaganda?

The government and the courts are at fault because they do not deal with a problem until it touches the bone. The people are happy when arrests are made, but they become unhappy when some of the criminals, with all these crimes, are freed by intermediaries.

Lotfollah Zare'i, Deputy From Behbehan

It is not an attractive thing for the Islamic government that its market is so disrupted that no one can be sure of a tomorrow for his economic activities.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Lotfollah Zare'i, deputy from Behbehan. He offered congratulations and felicitations on the birth anniversary of His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and Revolutionary Guard Day to all the Muslims of the world and to the Shi'ites and brave guardians of the Islamic revolution. He said: On the eve of the enactment of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget and study of the Second Five-Year Plan, the representatives of the nation must keep emulation of the leader of the nation in mind as the basic and important principle in achieving social justice, and they must use this as one of the real criteria for approving or rejecting any note or article. They must remember that along with all the efforts the government leaders have made to rebuild the economy, for whatever reason the gap between the poor and the rich has deepened and unfortunately a group has seized the opportunity to hoard and accumulate enormous wealth.

Continuing, he said: We must remember that our master and leader 'Ali (peace be upon him) considered the government a means for implementing justice and obtaining the rights of the deprived from the oppressors and aggressors of society. That great man made every effort to promote social justice and to eliminate class differences.

Zare'i then added: Today, along with the progress indicators that the officials give us, we are seeing poverty and deprivation for a large group of the people. The government, and especially the Majles, must make efforts to remove the traces of poverty and deprivation from their faces. It is not an attractive thing today for the Islamic Republic of Iran that the middle and weak classes of society, who make up most of the nation, are waging a hard and killing struggle to make a living where to obtain a minimum livelihood for a family, they are forced to work up to 16 hours a day. It is not an attractive thing for the Islamic government that its market is so disrupted that no one can be sure of a tomorrow for his economic activities. Let us remember that 'Ali (peace be upon him) never forgave sins such as hoarding and plundering public assets, although it was possible that he would forgive other sins.

That great man considered the ugliest form of oppression to be the oppression of strength over weakness and hoarding over the oppressed masses. That great imam would come out of his home every day and personally investigate the situation at the Kufeh bazaar. With the force of authority and where necessary with a whip he drove away the merchants who were doing wrong.

He then continued: Therefore it is incumbent upon all us deputies to take inspiration from the words of his successor, Khamene'i, the leader, and to concern ourselves with implementing social justice in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget and in the Second Five-Year Plan. Under all circumstances, we must delete anything from the Budget and the Five-Year Plan that puts pressure on the people, and we must remember that the people can tolerate no more pressure. Continuing, Zare'i, deputy from Behbehan, said: I ask the deputy minister of petroleum and the executive director of the gas company to keep their promise to me and order that gas delivery begin in Aqajari.

He added: I have been assured many times by the people that this will benefit the gas company economically. Who are these experts who are making decisions instead of the people and are using weak reasoning and justifications to say that since so far the people have been using free gas, they will not be willing to pay a subscription fee, the cost of plumbing and the gas price?

In conclusion, he issued several memos to the relevant officials concerning his electoral district.

Majles Notes

Consumer Support Bill

Mr. Mojtahed Shabestari, chief of the Majles Commerce Commission, discussed the Consumer Support Bill, whose first consultation will soon be presented at an open Majles session. He said: The general form of the Consumer Support Bill will soon be presented to the Majles.

The bill presented by the government needed many amendments, and this work has been done in the Commerce Commission. He emphasized the need to approve this bill in the Majles. He added: To support consumers, prices must be set for some goods. This current situation is absolutely intolerable and must be brought under control. The necessary provisions have been made in this law to control prices through the use of such things as manpower and agents, applying labels and guaranteeing the good condition of goods. He said: We ask the people and the experts to give the commission their views on how to make this bill more complete, so these amendments can be added in the second consultation after the general form of the bill is approved in the Majles.

Amending the Means Law for the Admission of Combatants

Dr. Mohammad Hadi 'Abd-Khoda'i, chief of the Culture and Higher Education Commission, discussed the Motion To Amend the Means Law for the Admission of Combatants to the Universities. He said: To compensate for a small part of the work and sacrifice the combatants rendered in the years after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, and in view of the fact that the highest sacrifice is made by the combatant's spouse, it is therefore appropriate to help them raise their educational level. If approved by the Majles, the spouses of combatants will also benefit from this share.

Concerning the Bill To Form Education and Training Councils

Concerning the amendment to the Bill To Form Education and Training Councils in the provinces, Ms. Fayaz-Bakhsh, deputy from Tehran, said: We now have about 3,000 rented classrooms and 4,000 three-shift classes. There are multiple-shift schools in the southern parts of Tehran. Our dropout rate is 25 to 30 percent. The lack of rahnema'i and middle schools in the rural areas and the formation of two-shift classes is causing emigration. Let us create a mechanism to collect an average fee from the wealthy and capitalist classes and justly spend that in the deprived areas.

Municipal Government Exhibition in the Majles

Yesterday Mr. Nateq-Nuri visited the exhibition on Tehran's municipal government activities, which was erected in the Majles courtyard. At the end of this visit, in which a number of deputies also participated, the speaker of the Majles gave a short talk thanking those involved in urban services. He said: As the center of the country, the city of Tehran receives special attention, and in view of the controversy our enemies generate concerning the Islamic Republic to the effect that our government is opposed to cultural and recreational centers, we must thwart this bad propaganda by doing cultural work and creating sound centers. He added: If appropriate services are provided to the people in exchange for the taxes collected from them, the people will also be happy.

The municipal government is a public organization. In providing services, it must observe the condition of the public from various perspectives.

Legislation

Bill To Form Education and Training Councils in the Provinces

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the Education and Training Commission concerning the Bill To form Education and Training Councils in the Nation's Provinces and Regions. The amendments to the bill, validated by the Guardian Council, were approved by the Majles.

Concerning Paragraph 5, Article 2, the Guardian Council objected that "it is likely that money will be taken from the people by force somewhere, and collecting help and self-help from parents, students, and the people is authorized when they pay it voluntarily."

The amendment to Paragraph 2 is as follows:

The approval of financial regulations for schools includes all revenues, expenses and other public revenues, in view of the quality of the presentation of education and training activities.

It is worth mentioning that Paragraph 2 previously said: "The approval of financial regulations for schools includes all revenues, expenses, and other public revenues, in view of the economic circumstances of parents at each school and..."

Concerning Paragraph 42, Article 8, the Guardian Council's problem was like the one it had with Paragraph 2.

The commission's amendment appends a note to the end of the paragraphs for Article 8: "Collecting help and self-help from parents, students, and the people is authorized when they pay it voluntarily."

Commission amendment to Article 10: The municipal governments are required to prepare guidelines and adopt the measures required to collect the taxes enacted in this law and to deposit the funds in a specified treasury account.

Commission amendment to Paragraph 3, Article 13: Up to 5 percent of the taxes for issuing permits for construction, land divisions, acceptance and new construction, in addition to the aforementioned taxes, will be collected by the municipalities.

Commission amendment to notes 2, 3, and 4, Paragraph 4, Article 13: The revenues obtained under Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 are to be deposited in the treasury and each year the equivalent amount will be provided in the Budget Bill on a specific row if allocated, to be spent in accordance with the regulations in this law.

Commission amendment to Article 16: All municipalities are required, in view of the needs anticipated in the urban educational programs, to use their legal resources and authorizations to obtain ownership of the lands needed to expand education and training space in the related cities for the offices of education and training. To obtain the credits necessary to implement this article, the municipal or regional education and training council, on the recommendation and approval of the province council, may collect some of the expenses to buy the land and build the education and training space from the builders of new commercial units, and deposit it into the treasury account.

Of the funds collected, 100 percent will be given in allocated form to the Ministry of Education and Training. The commissions mentioned in Article 5 of the Supreme Urban Construction and Architecture Council

Law must observe the relevant standards and give priority consideration to the requests from the municipality and the office of education and training.

Note: The maximum funds obtained under this article for each square meter of foundation must not be more than 5 percent of the price of a square meter of comparable buildings in the same area.

Motion To Amend One Paragraph and Three Notes to Article 99 of the Municipalities Law

The final item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation of the councils and domestic affairs commission concerning the Motion To Amend One Paragraph and Three Notes under Paragraph 3 to Article 99 of the Municipalities Law under which the following paragraph and three notes under Paragraph 3 were appended to Article 99 of the Municipalities Law:

Paragraph 3: To preserve the cultural, political, and social composition of Tehran and the municipalities of Karaj, Varamin, Shahriar, and the districts affiliated with Rey and Shamiranat, the government is required within no more than three months to act on the limits of the cities of Tehran, Karaj, Varamin, Shahriar, and the districts affiliated with Rey and Shamiranat based on the National Divisions Law and in accordance with the lawful boundaries of the aforementioned municipalities.

Note 1: To preserve the limits set for cities in the Province of Tehran, the relevant municipalities are required to use the regulations in the note under Article 2 of the City of Tehran Expansion Supervision Law enacted 17 Murdad 1312 [8 August 1973].

Note 2: To prevent unauthorized construction outside the approved limits of the cities and to provide a way of dealing with violations, a commission will be formed consisting of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, and the offices of the governors-general. The commission, on a case-by-case basis and in view of the comprehensive program (if the comprehensive program has not been approved, in observance of Article 4 of the *Guidelines for Building Construction Outside the Lawful Boundaries and Limits of Cities* enacted in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1977]) will issue an order to destroy the building and impose a fine. The amount of the fines for all the unauthorized buildings will be recommended by the aforementioned commissions, validated by the minister of the interior and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Note 3: The municipalities throughout the country are required, in addition to government credits, to spend at least 80 percent of the revenues and proceedings they obtain from within the bounds of the municipalities on developing the rural areas and and industrial villages within their limits, especially for the purpose of building roads, education and training, health care, procurement of potable water and agriculture, under the supervision of the appropriate governors and district governors.